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Award-winning vets takes a bow-wow



Mayor Steve Waltho with Brian Hogan (Partner & Clinical Director where in Dudley) and border terrier Burt

A VETERINARY Practice from the Black Country has been named as the best in the UK.

Blacks Vets Dudley Hospital help every creature from poorly pooches to under the weather hamsters and has now topped the charts for the second year running in the competition run by the VetHelpDirect.com directory.

The Best UK Vets awarded is presented to the veterinary practice that has been given the most four or five star online reviews by their clients.

Blacks Vets in Dudley finished in first place, with branches of the practice in Lye, Sedgley, Oldbury and Quinton, following in second, third, fifth and eighth place respectively.

Overwhelmed

Partner and clinical director Dr Brian Hogan, who was congratulated by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "We are overwhelmed to receive this award for a second time. This really matters to us because it is

voted for by pet owners. As you can imagine to have such a high number of four and five star reviews has just blown us away."

Almost 600 of Blacks' clients went out of their way to leave a review. The award is based on reviews left by owners over the course of a year.

Customers are asked to review the practice based on five areas of care – respect for my animal, professionalism, friendliness, cleanliness and value for money.

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'Scumbag' fly-tippers cost thousands in clean-up bill

FLY-TIPPERS have been branded 'idiots' and 'scumbags' after Dudley Council revealed it had spent more than £10,000 cleaning its four worst-hit streets in just 12 months.

The authority spent £10,631 cleaning up the four roads last year – and received 820 complaints about fly-tipping throughout the whole of the borough – 92 more than three years previously.

Cradley and Wollescote councillor Richard Body, who represents one of the worst affected areas, said: "If we had evidence such as the registration of the vehicles they were using or footage of them throwing rubbish out of the window, that would be fantastic.

"If more people started using cameras and more culprits started getting caught these idiots would think twice about fly-tipping. They are scumbags. "It costs the local authority a lot of money to clear up.

"People can get fined up to £250 for fly-tipping but I would like to see that penalty double."

The worst-hit streets were Hall Street in Dudley, Oak Lane in Kingswinford, Mears Coppice in Quarry Bank and Foxcote Lane in Cradley.

£5m project to improve rail services

A £5 million project to improve train services between Wolverhampton and Birmingham has been completed.

The line reopened after six days of work as part of Network Rail's £40bn Railway Upgrade Plan.

Staff worked to replace a major junction at Smethwick Galton Bridge – which allows trains to change tracks and routes – as well as overhead power lines and signalling.

A new bridge was also put in place over the canal using one of the largest cranes in Britain. The bridge will be quicker to maintain, improving the railway's reliability for passengers.

Martin Frobisher, Network Rail route managing director, said: "Despite the weather challenges, the railway reopened on time thanks to the dedicated efforts of our engineering team.

"We now have a more reliable railway which will help provide passengers with a better service between Birmingham and Wolverhampton."

Name change plan for Hippodrome



Campaigners are encouraging the whole Black Country to get behind The Hippodrome, in Castle Hill, Dudley

and Dudley Council. The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome had worked with a new group which had come forward featuring industry experts.

A business plan submitted at the end of last year was deemed 'extremely unrealistic' according to independent assessors. Revised plans were submitted in February in a bid to address some of the concerns raised.

The name change is among the ideas to bolster its bid across the wider Black Country. Friends group chairman Gordon Downing said the venue would be

known as Dudley Hippodrome initially but this could change to help bring in revenue.

"The name Black Country Hippodrome was put forward to get it more well-known in a wider area," he said. "We had further talks with the council and assessor. We are looking at things we can do differently."

Campaigner Dave Mundon, who worked with the group on the idea, said: "My personal view is it would help put the Black Country on the market more."

School could make way for housing

AN historic former school and council building could be demolished to make way for homes – to the anger of heritage groups desperate to save it.

If plans are passed, the Claughton Centre in Dudley, formerly the Sir Gilbert Claughton School, will be flattened and the land made available for a housing development.

The school closed in 1990 and was taken over by Dudley Council which renamed it the Claughton Centre and used it as offices.

Developers see the site, in Blower's Green Road, as an opportunity to get rid of disused buildings in favour of homes, but both Save Britain's Heritage and The Victorian Society have objected.

Around 56 homes would be built on the site, which falls within a regeneration corridor where council bosses are keen to see disused employment sites redeveloped for housing.

An outline application has been recommended for approval by Dudley Council officers with councillors expected to make a decision this week.

But the groups remain hopeful the building can be saved. In its letter of objection, Save Britain's Heritage said it was an attractive building worthy of retention and use.

The Victorian Society said it 'strongly objected' to its demolition and to the application as presented.

Attractions link up for St George's Day

DUDLEY Castle is joining forces with the borough council to host St George's Day celebrations for the first time.

Dudley Council and Dudley Zoological Gardens will combine to mark the patron saint's day on April 23. This is the first year the event will be held in partnership with the town's famous landmark.

The event will kick off at 3pm in the 11th century castle's courtyard.

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Home

No monkeying around as Jodie spreads word over plight of primates

A ZOO keeper who has spent her life learning about primates is flying out to Indonesia to help a critically endangered species of monkey.

Jodie Dryden, Dudley Zoo's senior keeper of primates, will spend three weeks in Sulawesi to help educate locals about the plight of the crested black macaques.

The 25-year-old helped design the attraction's newly-opened macaque enclosure.

She is being funded by the zoo and will meet up with members of the Selamatkan Yaki group, which translates to 'save the Sulawesi crested black macaque', on April 11. "The species is critically en-

dangered and their numbers have dropped by about 90 per cent in just 30 years," said Jodie.

"That's because their habitat is destroyed, they are being hunted for bush meat and sold in the pet trade.

"We need to educate the locals, which can take time and we don't want to just preach to them or tell them what they can and cannot do.

"I'll be giving talks and presentations to the locals in Indonesia to try and persuade them not to hunt the monkeys for bush meat," she said.

"It's important they see how actively involved we are in trying to save them."



Jodie Dryden will be flying out to Indonesia to help save the endangered crested black macaque

Library events mark Shakespeare's death

THE 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death is being celebrated at Tipton library next week.

Visitors can take part in a history quiz and celebrate the anniversary in a series of events at the Owen Street building.

Historian Chris Smith will be holding a talk at the library on Thursday, April 14, starting at 10.30am, entitled 'Would you believe it?'

Tickets will need to be booked by calling 0121 557 1796.

Another event will be held on April 23 at the library to mark 400 years since Shakespeare died.

Organisers are also unveiling a print of what is thought to be the first photo of William Perry, the Tipton Slasher.

The photo will be unveiled at 11am by John Miller from the Tipton and Coseley Building Society and members of the William Perry Amateur Boxing Club.

There will be traditional refreshments, face painting and a number of special guests at the event which runs from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Dave makes the cut as principal film censor

HE grew up in Dudley and has fond memories of watching Chitty Chitty Bang Bang as a youngster at the town's Odeon Cinema.

Now David Austin, brother of Dudley North MP Ian Austin, watches films for a living in his role as Britain's chief censor.

Earlier this month the 52-year-old took up his post as the new director of the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). He makes the final decision on the rating for every film released in the UK, and when you go to the cinema it is his signature you will see on screen shortly before the start of the movie.

His day-to-day work involves scrutinising every type of film, from rom-coms to horror flicks, from thrillers to pornography. He is charged with running the rule over some of the most gruesome and bloody violence recorded but Mr Austin says the sights he sees now are tame in comparison to what he witnessed in his previous job.

War

He spent 16 years working in the Foreign Office's Diplomatic Service, with one of his tasks being to help end war in the former Yugoslavia. That role – for which he received an OBE in 1999 – involved sitting at the table with Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in an attempt to negotiate peace. Milosevic was later charged with genocide.

"I got shot at," he says, rather matter-of-factly. "The final straw came in 1998 when I was away in Kosovo for a month. My daughter asked my wife if I had died. That's when I knew it was time for a change."

Mr Austin joined the BBFC in 2003, initially as an examiner. "It was a lot safer, although there are similarities with my diplomatic work," he said. "I was still analysing and making recommendations." In



Ex-diplomat David Austin

"Today we are classifying fewer DVDs, but we still looked at between 8,500 and 9,000 in 2014," said the father-of-two, who lives in west London.

"We are also now looking at a significant amount of content that will only be available online, which has certainly broadened our work."

The organisation has a staff of 42 and prides itself as the public's trusted guide to what is suitable for each age category.

"Our number one priority is the public," Mr Austin said. "Consultations give us a pretty good idea of what people expect from us and enable us to adjust our standards accordingly. I think we have such a high level of public trust."

Pride Awards deadline

LINEs are now open to nominate people and groups for the Pride of Tipton Awards. RSA Academy, Sandwell Local Tipton office, Tipton Police and the Pride of Tipton Community Group have teamed up to recognise those who have gone the extra mile for the community. The deadline for nominations is 5pm tomorrow (Friday). Email pot@rsaaacademy.org or call 0121 556 1351.

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Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph on the Grand Theatre stage



Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan



Miss Hannigan and little orphan Annie, Elise Blake, come face-to-face

Sun comes out for classic musical

Annie, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre by Alison Norton

THE sun certainly came out at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre earlier this week.

Nikolai Foster's superbly directed version of Annie the Musical opened to a packed audience, proving that we are still a sentimental bunch at heart.

The 1982 movie of the same name is a firm favourite, but can the stage adaptation possibly surpass the films? In my opinion, it certainly can and if anything, it is far more exciting and heart warming than either of the

big screen attempts. Having seen this production late last year starring Craig Revel Horwood as the wicked orphanage matron, Miss Hannigan, I simply could not wait to see one of our best-loved and funniest females, Lesley Joseph in the role and compare the two.

Lesley wins hands down, offering a superb comedy performance, perfect timing and who knew she could dance too?

Accent

With all the right moves she more than holds her own in what has to be a highlight of the show, the Easy Street number.

Granted Miss Joseph's accent is a little

REVIEW

more Chigwell than New York, but let's forgive and forget.

However, while the adults deliver polished performances, the real stars are the uber-talented tribe of, as the song does, 'Little Girls' who completely steal the show right from under their nose.

Eleven-year-old Elise Blake as Annie carries the whole show on very young shoulders, absolutely bringing the house down with a voice to die for and exceptional acting talent.

There are unbelievably strong performances from all of the orphans, but especially from Andie Jordan who at just seven is a shining star already.

Meanwhile, understudy Callum McArdle grabbed the chance to play Danny Warbucks with both hands and is every inch the billionaire destined to adopt the little red head, with smooth moves and a fine voice, while Holly Dale Spencer as Grace offers a beautifully refined performance and her outstanding soprano skills raise the rafters.

Nick Winston's choreography perfectly captures the feel of 1930s Broadway. The score features the likes of It's a Hard Knock Life,

I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here and You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile, guaranteed to have you dancing in the street.

Finally, there's Annie's unforgettable solo Tomorrow, which never fails to melt even the hardest heart. Add to that a super cute dog called Amber in the role of Sandy.

Perfect

They say never work with children and animals but in this case, they go towards creating the perfect musical.

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Business aiming for the sky with airships



The Lockheed Martin hybrid airship, one of two companies in talks with Straightline Aviation

A BUSINESS based at an airfield near Dudley aims to become the first in the world to operate a new generation of airships.

In two years' time Straightline Aviation says it will have a fleet of four to six hybrid airships flying passengers and freight in normally inaccessible areas of Africa, Canada and China.

But not over the Black Country or Staffordshire, although the offices at Wolverhampton Business Airport, at Bobbington, will remain the company's home as it grows.

Company bosses Mike Kendrick

and Mark Dorey formerly ran Richard Branson's Virgin airship and hot air balloons business, while Mr Kendrick has become better known for his Mineseeeker Foundation, which works to find and remove mines in Africa.

Helium

The pair are in advanced talks with the two companies currently developing the new airships, Hybrid Air Vehicles in the UK and US aviation giant Lockheed Martin, to become their first customer.

Both companies expect to have their airships ready to fly commercially in 2018. Filled with helium, the new

airships use a combination of lighter-than-air, aircraft and helicopter technologies - hence the term 'hybrid'.

They can land on any piece of cleared ground or even on the water. "These aircraft will transport cargo and passengers to previously inaccessible locations around the globe," said Mr Kendrick. "The first versions will carry up to 20 tons of freight, as well as passengers but they are scalable to many times that number."

As well as working in developing countries lacking modern transport networks, the airships would be ideal for oil and gas exploration companies working in inaccessible areas, he said.

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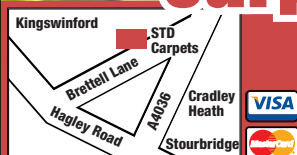
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FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH AND ROWLEY REGIS

Shopkeeper calls time at store after 35 years

FURTHER improvements will be made to Rowley Regis station after requests from an MP and councillor.

The number of parking spaces in the park and ride has been doubled to 750.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, and Halesowen North councillor Karen Shakespeare have called for further changes.

They want an electronic counter for drivers to know how many spaces are remaining, a cover for the walkway through the car park, and improvements to the exit.

Centro says an electronic counter will be installed using existing CCTV and there are plans to improve the road layout of the exit.

Councillor Shakespeare said: "I am delighted we have convinced Centro to install an automated car count system."

Traders' bid to improve

A BUSINESS leader hopes a trade group can be established to help improve Halesowen's prospects.

Barry Wheeler, a member of Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, hopes traders will agree to a Business Improvement District group initiative.

If successful it will receive funds by Dudley Council which elected trade members can then spend on improving the town. Voting will take place around October.

A FAMILY-run store that has served the community of Blackheath for more than three decades is to close.

Joe Singh, who has owned Michael Supermarket alongside his three brothers and brother-in-law, called time on the shop after 35 years, saying it's been 'brilliant' to have served the town.

By Jamie Brassington

Mr Singh opened the store in 1981 at the age of 18, alongside his siblings. It was to become the first of three family owned stores in the Black Country.

The 52-year-old said: "It has absolutely brilliant to have served the Blackheath community."

"We have seen generations of people grow up."

Family

"There have been numerous long-standing customers of ours but we have known them as family."

"We don't treat them like customers, we treat them like family and friends."

"We have had a lot of staff from the community work at our store and pass through our premises."

"As well as serving the community a lot of people have given our shop service and retired on our premises."

Michael supermarket, off Long Lane, has been an all-round store selling items

from meat, to hardware, green groceries, stationery and being a delicatessen.

But despite being part of the community for so long, Mr Singh added his store would still be flying the flag in the area.

"I am going to keep run our store in Hanover Road, Rowley Regis," he said, which will still run under the name 'Michaels.'

"That store is remaining open and will be a connection with the town."

"It will be a smaller convenience operation but will still be flying the name in Sandwell."

Mr Singh has chosen to close the store in Blackheath due to retiring members of his family.

He opened the store aged 18, when he came straight out of school.

His family also own a drinks shop based in Lower Gornal.



Joe and Binda Singh at Michaels in Hanover Road, Rowley Regis. Their Long Lane, Blackheath, store is to close

Under age drinkers are targeted

A CRACKDOWN on under age drinking has been launched following concerns raised by police.

Sandwell's Community Alcohol Partnership has been hitting the streets of Rowley Regis and Old Hill to talk to young people and giving safety advice. Trading standards officers also carried out test purchases at five shops with under age volunteers.

One out of five shops visited sold alcohol to the under age volunteer and will now receive a final warning.

Bob Charnley, manager of Sandwell Council's trading standards, said: "The aim of test purchases is to deter retailers from selling to youngsters, to reduce anti-social behaviour and the problems associated with drinking and to protect young people from the potential dangers of alcohol."

Driver hurt in collision

A DRIVER escaped with minor injuries after colliding with a parked car in Rowley Regis.

Emergency services were called to the junction of Bell End and Rowley Village around 11.30pm on Tuesday.

Oldbury and Haden Cross fire crews attended, but the male driver had managed to remove himself from the car.

He was assessed at the scene and treated for a minor knee injury.

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Accreditation

All involved have worked hard to achieve its Emergency Service Clinic and Small Animal Hospital accreditation at the Halesowen branch, making it one of the few truly 24/7 practices in the Midlands.

The neighbouring Edgbaston branch also achieved the Small Animal Hospital accreditation,

while Northfield and Cradley Heath branches both achieved the Small Animal Practice accreditation.

At Manor Veterinary Centre, the opinions of clients and feedback are highly valued.

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Care

Staff are proud to say that in the survey, 124 said that they felt their pet was treated with the upmost care – as they were looking after their own.

A great veterinary practice has more than just modern facilities, the



The Halesowen branch of Manor Vets scored highly in a recent survey with its clients

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Real toy story in the antiques saleroom

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



VINTAGE toys are always much sought after at auction so I thought this week we'd take a look at what is selling particularly well.

Before we do, however, it's fairly crucial to remember that with these vintage items in particular not only age but condition is all-important.

Toys, of course, are bought for children to be played with and often over the years they will have possibly sustained a fair amount of damage.

Having said that, some vintage toys will sell even with obvious signs of wear and tear, a vintage doll's clothes can be professionally cleaned by an expert, an old teddy bear similarly brushed up to look almost as good as new.

Some items – and those that will sell very well at auction – have been preserved in immaculate condition, even though they were played with in years gone by.

A Hornby and Bing train set came into the auction house a while ago dating from 1935 but it was all pristine because its twin brother owners had kept it incredibly carefully, although they had played with the set as young children.

The key factor was that they had looked after the set and put all pieces back in their original boxes – and these boxes do add to value if the items are subsequently sold at auction.

Some items, like model cars for instance, have clearly never been played with at all, sadly, and kept safely in their original packaging.

So what will sell in the saleroom?

Well, let's begin with teddy bears and of course the Steiff bears are the ones to look out for.

Steiff was founded in Germany in 1880 by Margarete Steiff, who started by making pin-cushions in the shape of elephants for her friends.



These proved massively popular and so Margarete went on to make stuffed animal toys, including pigs and cats, and in 1902 her nephew Richard Steiff designed the very first 'teddy bear' named after US president Theodore Roosevelt.

The rest is history. The Steiff bears sold in huge quantities throughout the world and are today very much sought after by collectors.

They are easy to identify by the famous button in their ears – and in the case of very old Steiff bears the mark where a button was originally attached is enough to verify authenticity.

Antique dolls sell well at auction and can be made from a variety of materials, including bisque, celluloid, china, porcelain, cloth and papier mache.

Many of these antique dolls were manufactured in France and Germany, and there are certain names to look out for – Armand Marseille or Simon and Halbig, for example.

Toy cars are also very collectable, age and condition being of great importance, plus original packaging is a definite bonus.

We sold a collection of Corgi and Dinky toy cars dating from the 1950s and 1960s for several hundred pounds but most of them were still pristine in their boxes.

And it's not just the 'classic' vintage toys dating back many years that catch the collector's eye... check your attic for old Barbie dolls, Action Man, Tamagochi, furbies and even trolls!

Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm at their Mill Street saleroom in Low Town and auctions are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

You can't beat an egg for all-round goodness

By Abi Jackson

PLANNING to indulge in a few foil-wrapped goodies over Easter?

Enjoy – life is too short to deny yourself those indulgent little pleasures – but while we're on the topic, let's take a moment to appreciate the cracking nutritional credentials of real eggs too.

When it comes to all-round healthiness, you really can't beat an egg (sorry!). Cheap, quick and easy, they go with everything, and are remarkably good for you too!

Here are five reasons to dip into more eggs...

EGG-STRA NUTRITIONAL

The term 'superfood' might seem like a modern marketing ploy, but it's a label that the humble egg is arguably quite deserving of.

"Eggs are a really nutritious food, providing an excellent range of micronutrients. As well as being rich in vitamin D, essential for normal bones and teeth and for both muscle and immune system function, they are also a good source of DHA – one of the omega 3 fatty acids – that contributes to normal brain and eye function," says Dr Juliet Gray, registered nutritionist and advisor to the British Egg Information Service (www.egginfo.co.uk).

"Eggs are also rich in selenium, important for hair and nails, the immune system, and thyroid function. On top of this, they contain more than 100 per cent of the RI [reference intake, formerly RDA] for vitamin B12, which we need for red blood cell function, and also vitamin A, vitamin B2, folate, biotin, pantothenic acid, iodine and phosphorus. All those nutrients in just one single food!"

PACKED FULL OF PROTEIN

There's been growing emphasis on packing plenty of protein into our diets recently. As well as being useful for weight management, protein's role in muscle growth and repair has helped up its popularity, as more and more of us get serious about our fitness regimes. Eggs contain all the essential amino acids which your body needs when refuelling after a workout and their high protein content helps to keep you satiated all morning.

BRILLIANT BREAKFASTS

Research has shown that people who eat eggs at breakfast eat less across the rest of the day compared to those who opt for grain-based cereals, as eggs help keep you feeling fuller for longer. They also pair extremely well with other health-boosters, to supercharge your breakfast even more, such as oily fish. Adding smoked salmon will boost those heart health omega 3 levels, and your intake of vitamin D. Serve on a bed of spinach or slice of granary toast for extra vitamins and fibre.

SUPER SNACKS

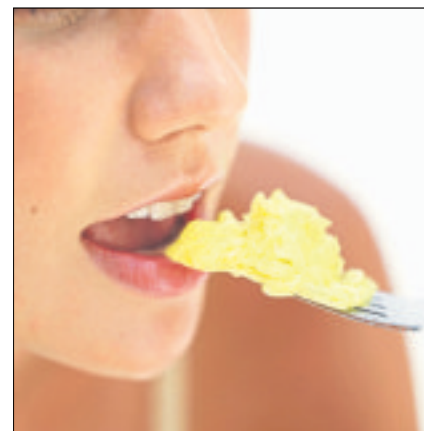
One medium-sized egg contains around 65 calories, which makes them a fantastic



Cheap, quick and easy, eggs go with everything, and are remarkably good for you too



An egg for breakfast will set you up for the day ahead



Eggs contain many of the essential nutrients we need

choice as a healthy low-calorie snack. Not only will an egg leave you feeling far more satisfied – therefore keeping hunger pangs at bay – than say a packet of crisps (usually 100kcal upwards, depending on the brand) or single digestive biscuit (around 71kcal), they'll also really count in those healthy-eating efforts, thanks to their super-charged nutritional content.

WORK WONDERS FOR SKIN

We're often told that the quality of our diets is displayed in our complexions, and eggs rack up cracking scores in the skin-enhancing stakes.

"Eggs contain vitamin A, which helps the process of cell development – especially the development of new skin cells. This is why vitamin A is often included in

beauty products," explains Shona Wilkison, head nutritionist at natural health retailer NutriCentre (www.nutricentre.com).

"They also contain the antioxidants selenium, which helps prevent free radical damage, which is part of the aging process, and lutein and zeaxanthin, which help protect the skin against UV damage."

Celebrating one of our wardrobe necessities



The Levi Strauss brand was born in 1873

DO you own a pair of jeans? The word 'jeans' comes from Genoa, Italy, where the sailors wore clothes made from a strong cotton fabric. It is thought the word 'denim' came from serge de Nimes. Serge is a cotton material produced in Nimes, France.

The story starts in the 18th Century when denim was used for workwear because it was so strong and lasted a long time.

In 1872 a manufacturer made his trouser pockets stronger by using rivets in the corners but could not afford to patent his idea so he asked one of his suppliers, Levi Strauss, to help finance the patent, he agreed and the first real pair of jeans, or waist overalls as they were known then, were produced in 1873, and the Levi Strauss brand was born. In 1886 they introduced the leather label and later the iconic red 'Levi' tab. The orange contrast thread used on Levi jeans, which is coloured to match the metal rivets, is trademarked!! The world's oldest surviving pair is 137 years old.

The size and range of model numbers in the Levi range defines the leg shape, cut,

STYLE FOCUS

With Janet Timmis



style and rise and continues to grow. The original 501's have a straight leg and buttoned fly, the choice seems endless.

Jeans became incredibly popular around the world when they were worn by American servicemen on their days off and the celebrity icons of the time were photographed in them, for instance, James Dean. It is said that on average every American owns at least seven pairs of jeans, it must be similar in the UK, there are very few people I know who do not own a pair.

Other well-known brands were created following the Levi Strauss success. Lee Cooper in 1908, Wrangler in 1947 and Pepe in 1973.

Today the biggest selling UK jeans brand is Diesel but most designer and high street brands carry jeans in their

ranges. We see changing trends every year, this season it is time to ditch the skinny, ditch the stretch and the jeggings, it is time to return to original cotton denim anti-fit. Women will be wearing straight leg, boyfriend jeans and jumpsuits, less ripped than last year, more of a subtle distressed look. Men will find fuller leg styles and a relaxed fit. There will be embellishments and patchwork and popular colours will be white, indigo, stonewashed and some tie dye. Turned or roll hems and looking their best with a T-shirt, bomber jacket and classic white trainers or pumps.

Over the years, certain genres have worn jeans and created a 'darning' image such as rockabillys, skinheads, punks, certain places banning the wearing of them, but still adding to their credibility and never spoiling their appeal. They assign person-ality to the wearer and become a wardrobe necessity.

On May 20 it is their 143rd birthday – something to celebrate.

Visit www.jfexclusive.com, www.jfgarmentsolutions.co.uk, follow jflifeandloves on tumblr

Twin girls celebrate double gold success

TWO teenage sisters have both collected the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – four years after they first started the young people’s programme.

Eighteen-year-old twins Chloe and Elenor Smith from Kingswinford, received the award from Prince Edward, Duke of Wessex, at St James’s Palace in London.

The siblings had previously completed bronze and silver awards, which they began aged 14 at Summerhill School in Kingswinford. Elenor said: “I’m really proud to have achieved the award.

“There is an element of relief, too, because of how hard it is to achieve. “It is not easy to achieve, it takes a lot of hard work.”

Chloe added: “Starting the award we never thought we would get this far. There have been some really good times along the way.”

The sisters have taken part in walking expeditions in the Lake District, Brecon Beacons, Peak District and Cadair Idris; completed a variety of voluntary work such as working in local charity shops, painting a youth hostel in the Peak District; and working alongside other volunteers on the Severn Valley Railway network. The pair joined the Summerhill Duke of Edinburgh Group, led by Mick, Stuart and Denise Bedworth.

They completed their awards while studying for GCSEs then subsequently A-levels at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, and Ounsdale Sixth Form, Wombourne.

Chloe is currently studying operating department practice at Birmingham City University and Elenor is studying law at the University of York.

Proud mother Louise Smith said: “I am very proud of them. They both worked extremely hard.”

Tough

The sisters added that while the expeditions were tough at times, they had great support from their leaders and all the hard work was worth it when they were able to receive their awards at the palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award was founded in the United Kingdom in 1956 by Prince Phillips, Duke of Edinburgh, and has since then extended to 144 nations.

The award sees youngsters taking part in a range of activities – from volunteering in other countries to physical activities, life skills to expeditions.



Chloe Smith, left, with her twin Elenor, who have received Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards

Help plea on tending grounds at church

GREEN-FINGERED volunteers are needed to help tend to the grounds of a landmark Dudley church.

The St John’s Preservation Group is looking for people who can help with work to clear the grounds at St John’s Church in Kates Hill.

It’s part of an on-going project to restore the church and re-open it to the community.

Chairman Deb Brownlee said new helpers would be made welcome.

The church, which opened in 1840, shut in 2002 due to safety concerns but recent surveys have shown the nave and chancel are both structurally sound.

The group hopes to develop it as a community hub, a tourist centre with local history display area and cafe, and also to return it to Christian worship.

To help the group email savest-john.schurch@hotmail.co.uk or call 0787 119 5042.

CCTV plan for tackling violence to taxi drivers

TAXIS in Dudley will have CCTV installed inside under plans to tackle child abuse and violence against drivers.

The move comes after a driver was attacked and left seriously injured in the street in Brierley Hill.

Mohammed Ahmed was badly beaten and was taken to hospital after the attack in Bell Street South on February 28.

Officials say the cameras would also boost safety in the wake of child sexual exploitation in other parts of the country. The cameras would also be used to capture those damaging taxis or making off without paying. A consultation will be launched into the proposals. Dudley Council’s taxi committee outlined a consultation into the policy at a meeting on Tuesday.

Footage

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman Shaz Saleem said he was broadly in favour of the scheme, but wanted information on how it would be funded and who had control of the footage.

“Having CCTV would protect drivers and customers and ensure safety,” he said. “It would act as a deterrent to people.

“We have had drivers who have been abused, some of them have been hit, and some customers have been making off with paying.

“It is about safety. It is not a question of spying on people.”

He added: “My main questions over it is who is fund-

By Andrew Turton

ing it. Also will the council have access to the CCTV?”

Dudley Council’s taxi committee chairman, Councillor Richard Body, said the consultation would discover more information on how to implement the policy.

Options will be explored to either force the compulsory fitting of CCTV, allowing it to be optional for drivers or scrapping the plan altogether.

It is expected to report back within around three months.

The plans come as training is planned for borough cabbies to spot the signs of child exploitation by those customers using taxis.

Councillor Body said: “Cameras in taxis have worked in places like Rotherham and London.

“At the moment it will be a consultation and that way everyone can give their views.

“I believe it would be a good idea. CCTV would go in Hackney carriages first as they pick people off the street.

“I would advise private hire taxis to do it to.”

Beer festival help call

ORGANISERS of the 19th Stourbridge Beer Festival are looking for volunteers. The Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is holding the event in Stourbridge Town Hall from April 20 to 23.

There will be more than 80 casks of real ale. Among the local breweries involved are Kinvor Brewery, Halesowen breweries Fixed Wheel and Angel Ales; Pig Iron, Brierley Hill and Black Country Ales, Upper Gornal. Camra members can sign up at www.stourbridgebeerfest.org.uk

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Choose the mower that is right for your garden

There are so many lawnmowers on the market these days – rotary and cylinder, corded electric, cordless petrol, battery-powered and state-of-the-art robotic types. But which one is right for your budget, and right for your lawn?

Lawnmower prices range from under £100 to thousands for elaborate sit-on types, but expect to pay at least a few hundred if you have a fair-sized lawn and want something that will last.

Petrol, corded electric or battery are the main options and each has its own pros and cons.

In our environmentally-conscious world, battery-powered options – once dismissed by lawn lovers because of the batteries' dubious staying power and need to replace them after a winter in storage – have become more sophisticated as lithium-ion batteries don't lose power like the old ones.

Bosch stopped manufacturing petrol mowers in 2010 to go eco-friendly and has long been extolling the virtues of lithium-ion batteries which, it claims, perform as petrol equivalents but with low noise, low vibrations and savings on running costs. Battery-operated mowers are generally lighter machines, don't pump out carbon monoxide and are much quieter than their petrol counterparts.

Other than following battery care instructions and annually sharpening the blades, cordless mowers need no other kind of maintenance.



BATTERY POWER

The downsides of battery mowers are that you have to remember to recharge the batteries and they won't stripe your lawn as effectively as a heavier machine.

The Bosch Rotak 43 LI Ergoflex cordless lawnmower (£469.99, shop.bosch-do-it.com) can give an excellent cut for 40 minutes on one charge. It has a charge time of 140 minutes.

The new EGO Power+ lawnmower (£499, www.egopowerplus.co.uk) whispers in at 83 decibels, quieter than a food blender. On an average lawn on flat ground, the battery would last around 45 minutes and can recharge in 30.

PETROL POWER

Petrol-driven motors may be better for bigger lawns and where you need plenty of power on slopes or uneven surfaces. Users also won't encounter the cumbersome cables of electric models. There are push and self-propelled varieties with having throttle control.

Petrol mowers give a good striped effect as they are heavier and, although they need servicing, it could be argued that a well-maintained, good quality petrol mower will outlast most electric ones. The Mountfield SP454 self-propelled petrol lawnmower (£304, B&Q, www.diy.com) is a great option for lawns up to 1500m squared.



ELECTRIC POWER

A corded electric mower is fine for a smaller suburban garden, if you're not bothered about keeping the cable out of the way of the blades.

Electric 'hover' mowers are the cheapest, but can produce a disappointing finish, often require a spanner to adjust the mowing height and don't always collect grass efficiently.

Ultimately, your choice should depend on your lawn type and size. If you have a small or medium-sized lawn, a battery-operated mower or light electric type should be fine. The Bosch 32R Corded Lawnmower (£78.92, Homebase, www.homebase.co.uk) is lightweight and perfect for smaller lawns.

CYLINDER OR ROTARY?

Cylinder mowers are for the lawn perfectionist who wants a finer cut and bowling green finish. They are ideal for flat lawns and short grass, but struggle with long or wet grass. If you want the exercise, opt for a push variety. If you don't, self-propelled is the way to go.

Rotary mowers are better all-rounders, cut better in wet or long grass and cope well with uneven surfaces. Their blades can be easily changed. Try the Mac Allister 1300W Rotary Lawnmower (£84, B&Q, www.diy.com) – a great all-rounder for gardens of a good size.

NEW ALTERNATIVES

Some gardeners might prefer to sink a gin and tonic on the patio while watching the lawn being mown by a robotic device such as Robomow, which starts at an eye-popping £1,199 for the RC304, increasing to £2,799 for the upgraded RS635 model, available from selected dealers nationwide (robomow.com).



Potted chillies can make an attractive addition to a patio

It's time to begin sowing your peppers and tomatoes

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Growing Chillies

You might be surprised to know that chillies can be trained easily into neat bushy plants which will give you enough fruits to keep you going for some time and deserve a place on the patio.

Start them off indoors by sowing two seeds into a 9cm pot and placing it on a heated propagator or warm windowsill, where you can maintain a constant temperature of 20C.

If both seeds germinate, remove the weaker one and gradually reduce the temperature to a minimum of 14C at night.

When the plant fills its space, pot it on into a two-litre pot of multipurpose compost and in June, place it in its final resting place in a five-litre pot in a sheltered spot on the patio.

When the plant is 20cm high, pinch out the growing tip to encourage bushiness. Water frequently on hot days during the summer and feed with a tomato fertiliser when the fruits start to form.

They're ready for picking when they are ripe

but the skin is still smooth. Chillies will store well for a couple of weeks in the fridge or longer in the freezer.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Plant container-grown outdoor grape vines
2. Divide hostas before they come into leaf
3. When space becomes available in the greenhouse, pot up cuttings of tender perennials taken last summer and at the beginning of this year
4. Plant roses in heavy soils or in cold areas
5. Protect new growth on lilies, delphiniums and any other plants affected by slugs and snails
- 6 Remove dead leaves from around the basal rosettes of alpine plants to prevent rotting
7. Plant herbaceous perennials, including geranium, astrantia and Oriental poppies
8. Sow sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, salads and globe artichokes in a frost-free greenhouse
9. Remove reverted green shoots on hardy variegated evergreens to prevent reversion10. Cut out the top rosette of leaves from leggy stems of Mahonia x media cultivars to encourage branching

Spare a thought and give support for garden hosts

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



SPARE a thought for those harried and wild eyed folks you might see dashing around the garden centre at this time who have bravely undertaken to open their gardens to the public.

Easter or the start of April is the traditional start of the garden open season.

Opening a garden has become an increasingly popular means of raising money for charity or simply for the upkeep of the garden.

No longer is it the preserve of those with rolling acres to display but more and more people with average sized gardens are putting out the signs and firing up the tea urn. Whether you have done it a hundred times or for the first time, well done!

For the garden visitor it is great opportunity to peek behind the hedges and fences of normally private preserves and see plants, some rare, many familiar and more importantly to see how they have been used.

For the person opening the garden it can be a stressful experience.

Naturally opening a garden means opening it to the judgement of others.

You naturally want it to be right but are not sure just what 'right' constitutes.

This is often some hazily defined feeling that the weather and the plants have all come together to harmonise.

In the lead up to the big day theatre can be a lot of glances cast at the skies to see if rain will stop the lens being mowed or if there will be enough sun to bring out the colours of the flowers or woe of woes if the prized patch of snowdrops or crocus will have been devoured by the birds.

There will often be hurried trips to the garden centre to snaffle up anything that might be in flower.

Spare a thought for these brave people who are offering up something with which they are emotionally engaged for you to engage with.

Even better spare your time and the modest entrance fee they might be asking for.

It is not only gardeners who are keeping an eye on the weather, plants are, metaphorically, doing the same.

Many plants are beginning their reproductive lives right now whilst there very few pollinators around.

The secret to this ambitious act of procreation lies in the warm and windy days which we often experience at this time of year. With each gust clouds of microscopic pollen rise up and take to the air.

This wind pollination or Anemophily is a strategy used by many woody plants from temperate climates where insect activity, especially during the colder months is limited.

These pollen grains are tiny, about half the diameter of a human hair.



It is not only gardeners who are keeping an eye on the weather. Plants are, metaphorically, doing the same as pollination begins.



It takes a lot of effort, from gardeners and plants, to get best results

Much of this reproduction remains unnoticed because without the need to flaunt themselves the plants that rely on wind pollination eschew the superfluous production of nectar and flowers.

In fact what flowers they do produce are tiny and held in catkins or pedicels.

Nearly all conifers employ this method of reproduction.

If you are lucky enough to have a majestic yew or a yew hedge in the garden or around you can often see clouds of pollen being dispersed.

On trees such as oaks, ashes and Cer-



Now is the perfect time to pay a visit to the gardens

cidiphyllum the pollen dispersal is accomplished before the leaves emerge which saves energy and let's the wind get to the all important pollen baring structures without being deflected.

This is a risky strategy, trusting the survival of your genetic material to the capricious spring weather especially as pollen from wind pollinated plants is often less viable over longer distances.

These plants often compensate for this by producing huge quantities of pollen, billions of grains.

So when you go out and visit a garden

and as you drop your money in the entrance box remember that both the owners and the plants are risking something!

The gardens at Hodnet Hall are open to visitors from midday through to 5pm on Sundays and bank holiday Mondays until September 27. Admission costs £6.50 adults and children £1. Dogs are welcome on leads.

A plant fair will be held on June 4 and 5. The garden is open for the National Garden Scheme on June 12.

The Garden Restaurant serves light refreshments. For group visits contact the secretary on 01630 685786.

Luxury home could be yours for around £2m

FIVE bedrooms, a luxurious lounge, spacious kitchen and beautiful garden offering splendid views of the countryside. It could all be yours – for close to £2 million.

This marvellous mansion could soon have new occupants after being put on the market.

Located in the idyllic Hagley countryside near Stourbridge, the property was so stunning it has attracted the television cameras, having previously featured on the Channel 4 show Multi-Million Pound Properties.

It was built from scratch by its current owners and looks fit for a millionaire high-flier.

On its website, The Lee, Shaw Partnership, which is advertising the £1.85 million property for sale, describes it as having the perfect mix of classical elegance and contemporary style.

The house is guarded by a high brick wall and a grand gated entrance and it is not hard to envisage an Aston Martin or Lamborghini – or more likely both – pulling out to tour the surrounding countryside roads.

Walkway

Four of the five bedrooms are en suite, while in the garden there is a patio with room for plenty of outside seating, not to mention a Jacuzzi, and a lit walkway which offers a view of hills and fields for as far as the eye can see.

The minimalist kitchen makes it appear huge, with an oven and microwave built into the walls, small unit space and all white walls and floors. Large doors and a window above also provide stunning views into the garden.

There is also a games room, with a cinema screen and pool table, which like the lounge, is set out over wooden



Inside the sprawling home



The views from the £1.85m property



The five-bedroom home in the idyllic Hagley countryside

panel flooring. While much of the home caters for a life of luxury, there is also space for hard work with a study included.

Agents Lee, Shaw say: "This particularly special, award-winning and impressive house effortlessly mixes classical elegance with contemporary style and bespoke specification, extending to in excess of 5,000 sq ft of

accommodation. There is nothing like this property currently on the market. "Built and just completed by the present owners, the construction, design and specification has been beautifully executed to an outstanding standard."

The property, in Middlefield Lane, is close to Hagley railway station and a short drive from the village centre.

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Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures

DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

The denture looks like any other, but the clever diaphragm development to help hold it secure can give it the edge over its traditional counterparts.

"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner.

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

The Suction Solution option attracts the

biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.



"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds.

Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw.

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

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fast the ticket

Opening Night

Twelfth Night preview
See Page 25



Miracle man

Derren Brown, Page 25

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Beth Sherburn

Sunday, 6.30pm
Hare & Hounds, B'ham
 Dudley pop singer Beth Sherburn, who was 'discovered' singing as she worked at a Merry Hill store, has a showcase gig at the Kings Heath pub venue, minimum age 14.
 Visit hareandhoundskingsheath

Paul Zerdin

Tuesday, 8pm
Town Hall, B'ham
 Last time he was in Brum ventriloquist Zerdin was part of the Hippodrome panto cast, now he's a Las Vegas star after winning America's Got Talent, minimum age 14.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

The All-Star Stand-Up Tour

Wednesday, 8pm
Town Hall, B'ham
 There will be mirth and magic as comedy trickster Pete Firman (pictured) joins a line-up of comics Sean Hughes, Mock The Week's Gary Delaney and compere Jarred Christmas.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

T.Rextasy

Saturday, 8pm
Robin 2, Bilston
 Get It On with Danielz, who has been the leading tribute to Marc Bolan and T.Rex for more than 20 years, celebrating the glam rock star who was Born To Boogie.
 Visit www.therobin.co.uk

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T-Rextasy: T-Rex Tribute
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 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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The Undercover Hippy
 Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £7
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Viva Neil Diamond
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

Aixndr
 Thu at 7pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

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 Thu at 7.30pm,
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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Night
 Thu at 8pm,
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Bry
 Tue at 7pm,
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Michael Bolton
 Fri at 7pm,
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

The Superskas
 Sat at 7pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Hans Zimmer
 Tue at 8pm,
 Barclaycard Arena, B1 2AA.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Eliza And The Bear
 Wed at 7pm, £10
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Jack Garratt
 Fri at 6pm - 10pm, £10
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Pvris
 Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Harvey Sutherland
 Fri - Sat at 9pm - 3am,
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

The Bellrays
 Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm,
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

5 Seconds Of Summer
 Thu at 6pm,
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

The View
 Tue at 7pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Funeral For A Friend
 Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm, £25
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Teleman
 Fri at 7pm,
 The Rainbow, 160 Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
 Call 0121 753 1818

BLUES, JAZZ & SOUL

Betty Wright
 Sat at 8pm,
 The Drum,
 Aston on Carrant, Birmingham, B6 4UU.
 Call 0121 333 2400

The Chicago Blues Brothers: Jailbreak tour
 Wed at 7.30pm,
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Hot Club of Cowtown
 Sat at 7pm - 11pm,
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

Natasha Watts
 Sun at 7pm - 11pm, £10
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Dollar Brand Party
 Wed at 9.30pm - 10.30pm,
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
 Call 0121 331 5901

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Country Music Night
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 The Swan with 2 necks
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 WS15 4PN

Amy Lavere
 Fri, 7.30pm
 St George's Hall, Bewdley. Call 01299 400110

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Dallas Symphony Orchestra
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm,
 £9.50 - £50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Creative Ensemble And Viva Nova
 Wed at 8.30pm - 9.30pm,
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Monday Showcase: Schubert, Tchaikovsky And Rachmaninov
 Mon at 1pm - 2pm,
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
 Call 0121 331 5901

The Ambache Prize For The Performance Of Music By Women Composers
 Wed at 7pm - 9pm,
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
 Call 0121 331 5901

G4: Back For Good
 Mon at 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Tamsin Waley-Cohen Plays Tchaikovsky
 Wed at 2.30pm - 4.30pm,
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Bruckner's Ninth
 Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Annie
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Disney On Ice: Silver Anniversary Celebration
 Fri at 7pm, Sat at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, 7pm, Sun at 11am, 3pm, 7pm,
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Calling For Help!
 Fri, Sat
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Rehearsal For Murder
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Chairs
 Tue at 8pm, Wed at 2pm,
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

We'll Meet Again
 Mon at 2.30pm,
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Derren Brown: Miracle
 Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Twelfth Night
 Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

The Rotters' Club
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 4pm, 8.30pm,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Folk
 Thu at 7.45pm,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Mary Poppins
 Fri at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 2pm, 7.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 2pm, 7.30pm, 7.30pm, £25.55 - £30.60
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

The All-Star Stand-Up Tour 2016
 Wed at 8pm,
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Shazia Mirza: The Kardashians Made Me Do It
 Sat at 12am,
 The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY.
 Call 0121 605 5116

ART GALLERIES

A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection Part 2
 Sat at 10am - 5pm,
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
 Call 01902 552055

Into The Woods
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
 Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
 Call 0121 414 7333

Prestige & Power: Projecting Identity In 17th-Century Portraiture
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
 Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
 Call 0121 414 7333

Antiques For Everyone Spring Fair
 Fri at 11am - 6pm, Sat at 11am - 6pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Chance, Order, Change: Abstract Paintings 1939-1989
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
 Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
 Call 0121 414 7333

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 Fri at 10am - 5pm, 10am - 5pm,
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 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Laura Lancaster
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Jan Vanriet The Music Boy
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

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Shakespeare in a rock 'n' roll riot



Oliver Dimsdale (Toby Belch), Jonathan Broadbent (Orsino) and Syreeta Kumar (Olivia) in Filter's version of Twelfth Night

FOLLOWING a run in New York and an extensive tour of India, Filter Theatre mark 400 years since William Shakespeare's death by bringing their critically-acclaimed production of Twelfth Night to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, April 16.

This story of romance, satire and mistaken identity is crafted into one of the more exciting and accessible Shakespeare productions of recent

years. Olivia's puritanical household clashes head on with Sir Toby Belch's insatiable appetite for drunken debauchery as the deluded Malvolio has an extraordinary transformation in this new take on the classic play.

Originally commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company's former artistic director Michael Boyd as part of their Complete Works Festival, Filter's characteristically radical and riotous interpretation reaffirms their

reputation as one of the most inventive theatre companies.

They promise that no two shows will be the same with decisions taken on the hoof as the narrative unfolds each night. In this informal production the stage is covered in cables, technical equipment, amplifiers and musical instruments that enable Filter to create the play in what promises to be more akin to a rock concert than classic theatre.



'It's my boldest show yet'

You'll believe in a Miracle

MASTER of illusion Derren Brown is bringing his latest show, Miracle, to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to amaze and baffle audiences.

Previous shows Svengali and Infamous have left packed venues stunned. This will be his seventh production since 2003 but the award-winning showman, who uses psychology to create the illusion of supernatural powers, is giving few clues on what to expect this time.

"As ever, I ask people to keep the contents of the show a secret," says the two-time Olivier Award winner.

"But I can certainly say that this show has a more philosophical flavour and looks at ways of thinking that may make us happier."

"In some ways it's the boldest, most contentious show yet. But audiences are responding well to it and I just love doing it — it's quite a rollercoaster."

Having performed to one and a half million people over 13 years, Croydon-born Brown says the magic genre can continue to break boundaries.

"Magic is a very childish thing at heart: the quickest, most fraudulent route to impressing people. It's based in dishonesty. So you have to work harder to make it have artistic merit or relevance."

"I am often dishonest in my techniques but I'm always honest about my dishonesty."

Miracle will be at the Grand from Monday to Saturday, April 16.

Top of the Pops with The Rezillos

A BAND that put a smile on the faces of New Wave fans back in the 70s are back, as Scottish outfit The Rezillos have a gig at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday).

Still fronted by Fay Fife and Eugene Reynolds, the band lit up the punk era with their day-glo blend of 60s-inspired sci-fi rock 'n' roll with such songs as Top Of The Pops and Flying Saucer Attack, before mutating into The Revillos.

That's the same night that rising star Jack Garratt has sold-out the O2 Institute in Birmingham. The Digbeth venue will also have a full house for PvrIs on Saturday and Funeral For A Friend on Wednesday.

Movie music night with Oscar winner

HOLLYWOOD'S most in-demand composer, Hans Zimmer, is coming to Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Tuesday for one of only two UK shows.

The German-born musician has composed the soundtracks to blockbusters such as Inception, Interstellar, The Dark Knight Trilogy, Gladiator, 12 Years a Slave, The Lion King, Pirates of the Caribbean and many more. Zimmer's studio band will be appearing with Lebo M, known for his vocals on Zimmer's Academy Award-winning score for Disney's The Lion King, as well as an orchestra and choir, with over 70 musicians on stage.

Zappa guitarist in special tribute gig

A PUNK diva plus tributes to a glam rock legend and two of rock's great mavericks will feature at Bilston's Robin 2 venue.

New Wave 80s star Hazel O'Connor, whose movie Breaking Glass provided hit singles Eighth Day and the poignant Will You, teams up with former Belle Stars saxophonist Claire Hirst at the Mount Pleasant venue tonight (Thursday).

T Rextasy take fans back to the 70s heyday of Marc Bolan on Saturday and on Sunday the Muffin Men pay tribute to Frank Zappa and Captain Beefheart's Magic Band with Zappa/Beefheart guitarist Denny Walley AKA Feelers Rebo.

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CHOICE



Ant & Dec

Britain's Got Talent (ITV, 7pm)

New series. Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams take their seats on the judges' panel as the nationwide variety talent show returns for its tenth series, giving another crop of would-be comedians, contortionists, street-dance outfits and all-round entertainers a chance to wow the all-star panel - and the viewers at home - with their most prized skills. This year, the contest looks set to feature as wide a variety of acts as ever, including a one-man band on stilts, puppetry, archery and an orchestra with a twist, and Simon has promised that the winner will receive not only a £250,000 cash prize and a place in the Royal Variety Show, but also a 'special surprise' he has described as 'priceless'.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 MasterChef. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Kelly Holmes: My Marathon Story. 1.30 Golf: The Masters Highlights. 2.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.20 Now You See It. 5.50 BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Can't Touch This. A Karate instructor, a would-be Red Coat, and a baker from Armagh with a terrible sense of direction are among the 16 contestants battling their way through a giant obstacle course filled with prizes that are just out of reach. If the competitors are able to lay hands on any of the goodies within, they can take them home, including a grand prize that requires a giant leap of faith to claim. Presented by Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo, with narration by Sue Perkins.

7.00 The Voice UK. This year's contest draws to a close as the four most successful contestants take to the stage one last time in the grand final. Having progressed through seven weeks of blind auditions, two battle rounds, two knockout stages and two live shows, the would-be stars face the ultimate test of their vocal abilities, with the winner earning themselves a recording contract. Superstar coaches Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson, Paloma Faith and Boy George perform together one final time as fans at home cast their votes to determine which would-be pop icon will claim the title of The Voice UK 2016. Last in the series.

9.00 Casualty. Jacob enlists an unlikely ally to help him track down a dangerous drug dealer, and Big Mac becomes increasingly reliant on painkillers. Medical drama, starring Charles Venn.

9.50 The National Lottery Live.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Ham United v Arsenal at Upton Park; National Lottery Update.

11.45 Film: Deja Vu. (2006) Sci-fi thriller, starring Denzel Washington and Paula Patton.

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: Sister Kenny. (1946) Fact-based drama, starring Rosalind Russell. **8.20 Film: Goodbye, Mr Chips.** (1939) Period drama, with Robert Donat. **10.10 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 12.00 Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00 Film: Henry V.** (1989) The English king leads his armies into battle to reclaim control of France. Adaptation of Shakespeare's historical play, directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh. With Derek Jacobi. **3.15 Flog It!** (R) **4.00 Bake Off: Creme de la Creme.** (R) **5.00 World's Weirdest Events.** (R)

6.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels around the world, learning traditional hunting methods from members of tribal cultures and joining them in pursuing dangerous predators. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. Corporal Jones misplaces £500 donated by local shopkeepers to provide a new canteen for servicemen, so the platoon tries to help him remember what he did with it. Comedy first broadcast in 1972, starring Clive Dunn, John Le Mesurier and Arthur Lowe. (R)

7.30 Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. While conditions on this famous course are notoriously difficult, Jordan Spieth made light of such matters last year on his way to winning his first Major, establishing a new Masters record for the lowest 54-hole score, and helping himself to a four-shot lead over Justin Rose in the process. While Spieth hasn't been quite at his best in the early part of this year, the American is still among the favourites, with the European charge led by former world number one Rory McIlroy. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Film: The Mummy. (1959) An ancient Egyptian priest returns to life to kill those who have desecrated the 4,000-year-old sacred tomb of a princess. Hammer horror, starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. **1.25 Film: Stark Raving Mad.** (2002) Crime comedy, starring Sean William Scott and Timm Sharp. **3.00 This Is BBC Two.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 Scrambled! Bottom Knockout Street. (R) **6.15 Scrambled!** Bottom Knockout Street. (R) **6.25 Scrambled!** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Scrambled!** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50 Scrambled!** Signed Stories. (R) **6.55 Scrambled!** Sooty. (R) **7.05 Scrambled!** Super 4. (R) **7.15 Scrambled!** Looped. (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!** Nerdz & Monsters. (R) **8.30 Scrambled!** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05 Scrambled!** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.15 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.15 ITV News: Weather.** **12.24 Regional Programme.** **12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.25 The Chase.** (R) **3.25 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang.** (2010) 5.30 Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45 ITV News: Weather.**

6.00 You've Been Framed! XXL. Harry Hill presents an extra-large edition of the show, revisiting some of the best mishaps, hijinks and side-splitting disasters captured on video by intrepid viewers.

7.00 Britain's Got Talent. New series. Judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams take up their places on the judges' panel as the nationwide talent show returns for its tenth series.

8.25 You're Back in the Room. Coronation Street stars Anthony Cotton and Jennie McAlpine join Phillip Schofield and Keith Barry as five more hypnotised strangers team up to win a potential £25,000. Last in the series.

9.25 Film: The Fast and the Furious. (2001) An undercover cop infiltrates the world of illegal street racing in search of a hijacking ring, but starts to question his loyalties. Thriller, starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker.

10.25 ITV News: Weather.

10.40 Film: The Fast and the Furious. (2001) Concludes.

11.40 The Cube. Derry-Londonderry radiographer Lindsey is determined to stay calm under pressure, followed by Yorkshireman Keith - the oldest person to have appeared on the show. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.05 Freeride World Tour.** 7.30 Taravera Ultra Marathon. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 The Grand National Morning Line.** 11.00 Weekend Brunch - From the Grand National. 2.00 The Grand National Live from Aintree. Including the 5.15 Crabbie's Grand National Steeple Chase (4m 2 1/2h).

6.30 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorbike fan takes on the challenge of building the world's fastest soapbox racer in an attempt to set a new speed record using just the pull of gravity and a tarmac road. To get to grips with going blisteringly fast on a public road, Guy tries his hand at street luge with former global champion Helene Schmit, before joining his team of engineers to explore the science of rolling resistance and the importance of tyre pressure. Armed with what they believe to be the perfect formula, they produce a unique soapbox car inspired by Mother Nature and, after training with the team GB women's bobsled pair, confidence is high - but are disaster and mayhem just around the corner? Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 Film: Johnny English Reborn. (2011) A bumbling secret agent retires to a Tibetan monastery in disgrace after a mission goes wrong. He is lured out of seclusion by the chance to redeem himself when his former bosses seek his help in foiling an attempt to assassinate the premier of China. Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson, Gillian Anderson, Rosamund Pike and Dominic West.

10.00 Film: Die Hard. (1988) A New York cop battles armed men who have taken over a Los Angeles skyscraper where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman.

12.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.30 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Nancy accuses Darren of gambling again. (R) **3.35 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.** (R) **3.45 Location, Location.** (R) **4.40 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R) **4.55 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** **5.50 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 9.30 The Saturday Show Live. 11.30 Police Interceptors: Under Attack. (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors: Dog Squad.** (R) **1.20 Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits.** (R) **2.20 GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **3.20 GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **4.15 GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **5.10 GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** (R)

6.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Kensi goes undercover as a highly trained cat burglar to find out why a sophisticated thief is planning to steal antiquities from a naval base.

7.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Don Lambert, an accountant who offered to testify against weapons trafficker Hugo Garza, dies after slipping away from the Federal Marshals tasked with keeping him safe ahead of the trial. In an attempt to ensure justice is done, Pride offers to personally escort a replacement witness - Lambert's former business partner - to the trial in Texas. However, the killer is still out there, and it's not long before Pride, Sonja and their witness face an ambush. Naval crime drama, starring Scott Bakula.

8.00 NCIS. The team investigates the cause of a hit-and-run incident in which a Petty Officer has been killed. Meanwhile, Gibbs works to clear a Navy Hospital Corpsman.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, including Burnley v Leeds United and Middlesbrough v Preston North End.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. A round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Scunthorpe United v Burton Albion, Wigan Athletic v Coventry City and Northampton Town v Bristol Rovers.

10.30 NCIS. A US Navy captain is held hostage in his own office while his wife and blind daughter are abducted, and the kidnappers try to extort a large sum of money from him for their release. (R)

11.25 NCIS. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **4.40 Divine Designs.** (R) **5.05 HouseBusters.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Treasures of the Indus 8.00 Human Planet 9.00 Follow the Money 11.00 The Joy of the Guitar Riff 12.00 The Kinks at the BBC 1.00 Top of the Pops: 1981 1.35 Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker 2.35 The Joy of the Guitar Riff 3.35 Close

ITV2

11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 12.45 The Almost Impossible Gameshow 1.40 Scorpion 2.40 Celebrity Catchphrase 3.40 Britain's Got More Talent: Top 10 Live Show Moment 4.45 Film: King Kong (2005) 5.45 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: King Kong (2005) 8.25 Britain's Got More Talent 8.25 Family Guy 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.10 Family Guy 11.35 American Dad! 12.35 @elevenish 1.00 The Cleveland Show 1.55 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.20 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.45 The Hot Desk: Zara Larsson 2.55 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

2.15 Goodnight Mister Tom 4.25 Film: Columbo: Fade in to Murder (1976) 6.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Lewis 12.00 Blue Murder 1.35 Doctor at Large 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

3.00 FYI Daily 3.05 Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) 3.45 Film: From Russia with Love (1963) 4.45 FYI Daily 4.50 Film: From Russia with Love (1963) 6.05 The Motorsport Mavericks 7.10 The Big Fish Off 8.15 Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) 9.15 FYI Daily 9.20 Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) 10.00 Film: Passenger 57 (1992) 11.00 FYI Daily 11.05 Film: Passenger 57 (1992) 11.45 Film: A Dangerous Man (2010) 12.45 FYI Daily 12.50 Film: A Dangerous Man (2010) 1.40 Minder 2.35 Movies Now 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4

12.00 How I Met Your Mother 1.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 2.00 Film: Hop (2011) 4.00 Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade 4.25 The Goldbergs 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Easy A (2010) 10.50 Gogglebox 1.00 Rude Tube 2.00 The IT Crowd 3.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.45 New Girl 4.30 Revenge Film 4

11.00 Picture Perfect (1997) 1.00 Turner & Hooch (1989) 3.00 Durston Checks In (1996) 4.40 Mirror Mirror (2012) 6.45 Starman (1984) 9.00 1. Robot (2004) 11.15 The Divide (2011) 1.30 Max Payne (2015) 3.35 Close

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CHOICE



Leanne Best

Undercover (BBC1, 9pm)
Maya's fight for justice becomes a serious threat to the establishment, setting out to bring shocking secrets to light. Nick is consumed with guilt as he recalls his time as an undercover police officer, and his infiltration of an anti-racist organisation led to his first meeting with his wife. When a violent incident erupted during a march and one of the leading activists was attacked, Nick was left struggling to reconcile his feelings for Maya and his loyalty to the police force he serves, but has begun to question. Sophie Okonedo, Adrian Lester, Tamara Lawrence, Daniel Ezra, Shannon Hayes, Vincent Regan, Alistair Petrie, Mark Bonnar, Derek Riddell, Clare Holman, Adrian Schiller and Leanne Best star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Secret Britain. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Life in the Air.

6.00 **Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army and Me.** Paul reads a Bible story to a room full of children, and gets a glimpse of the future when he tries on an age simulation suit to experience the physical demands of growing old.

6.30 **BBC News.**

6.50 **Regional Programme.**

7.00 **Countryfile.** John Craven follows L.S. Lowry's journeys around Northumberland, accompanied by the man who used to drive him on his trips, and meets the last of Berwick's traditional fishermen, a subject often painted by the artist. Ellie Harrison investigates how to conserve moorland and meets a heavy horse breeder, while Charlotte Smith reports on domestic violence in isolated rural areas. Plus, the second of this year's Farming Heroes nominees. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where they value an ugly family heirloom that turns out to have an important heritage – and a surprising value.

9.00 **Undercover.** Maya threatens to expose secrets in the establishment, while Nick is consumed with guilt as he recalls his time as an undercover police officer and his first meeting with his wife.

10.00 **BBC News.**

10.20 **Regional Programme.**

10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United and Sunderland v Leicester City.

11.40 **Film: The Hot Chick.** (2002) A petty crook and a snooty cheerleader swap bodies, leaving the thief free to indulge in a crime spree while posing as a go-go dancer. Comedy, with Rob Schneider and Rachel McAdams.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** This Farming Life. (R) **8.15** An Island Parish. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Triathlon. **2.50** Live Gymnastics: British Championships. Coverage of the Artistic Gymnastics British Championships from Liverpool. **5.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R)

6.00 **Great British Railway Journeys.** Michael Portillo sets off from Newcastle on the final leg of his journey from Derby to Lindsfarne, numbers out about the world's earliest swing bridge and its inventor William Armstrong. He also travels by boat from the port of Seahouses to examine the story of lighthouse keeper's daughter Grace Darling, who, along with her father, rescued nine people from tumultuous seas in 1838. On the Holy Island of Lindsfarne, Michael explores the lime kilns and finds out how Christianity spread from here across northern England in the 7th century. (R)

6.30 **Golf: The Masters Live.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year reaches a conclusion. Jordan Spieth started the final day four shots ahead of his nearest rival last year and showed no signs of any nerves affecting his game, eventually holding that advantage ahead of Phil Mickelson and Justin Rose, who were tied for second. Spieth also equalled the lowest 72-hole total for the Masters and set the record for the most birdies for the week, confirming his rise to fame and clinching his first Major. Rose finished as the highest-placed European, with fellow Englishman Ian Poulter and Paul Casey also in the top 10, along with Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy and Hideki Matsuyama of Japan. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. (R) **12.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.35** Holby City. Serena's personal involvement with a patient affects her professional judgement. (R) **2.35** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.45** River Monsters. (R) **1.50** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.50** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.50** Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller.

6.30 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.45 **ITV News:** Weather.

7.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Charlie Brooks, Richard Whitehead, Shappi Khorsandi and David Dickinson work as a team to take on a quiz genius and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.

8.00 **The Durrells.** Larry falls dangerously ill, and Theo and his neighbour put their rudimentary medical skills to the task of saving him. Spiros brings good news from a surprising source.

9.00 **Home Fires.** Laura is publicly disgraced when news of the Bowers' divorce hits the papers, with grave consequences for the surgery and her friendship with Tom. Pat is tempted by her feelings for Marek while Bob is in hospital. Steph is delighted when Stan returns home on leave, but the reunion is overshadowed by his fears of invasion. Frances discovers a secret at the reading of the will.

10.05 **ITV News:** Weather.

10.20 **100 Year Old Drivers.** On the road with some of Britain's oldest motorists, including a bomber command veteran who drives to the betting shop every day. (R)

11.20 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica visits a friend's Arizona ranch – but as soon as she arrives, the community is plunged into disarray by a local psychic's sinister predictions. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frazier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** Film: Bridge to Terabithia. (2007) Drama, starring Josh Hutcherson. **4.25** Film: Rango. (2011) Premiere. Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** With numbers in the wild dwindling rapidly, Chester Zoo's black rhino breeding programme is a key part of preserving the species. In this episode, black rhino Kitani is introduced to new mate Magadi, but with injury a high risk during mating, keeper Babs is concerned that Kitani may struggle to defend herself, since she lost her horn after the death of her calf. Meanwhile, there's a surprise birth in the orangutan house, and older sibling Tuti has to fend for herself and set out on the road to independence. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 **Hidden Britain by Drone.** Tony Robinson presents the first of two programmes using drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. Among the locations featured is a village on Salisbury Plain that is not listed on any maps, and is used by the military for training. The drones record an exercise involving tanks storming the area. Other sites include the world's most advanced container port, a Second World War bunker, an abandoned airbase that once housed nuclear weapons, and an 18th-century mansion belonging to a Russian billionaire.

9.00 **Indian Summers.** A badly burned Lord Hawthorne demands Adam be arrested for the attack against him. As Ralph and Cynthia try to find a way to protect him, Simla is devastated by an earthquake.

10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 **Film: Insidious: Chapter 2.** (2013) **1.05** Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) **2.00** The People Next Door. (R) **2.55** Come Dine With Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.00** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild UK. (R) **2.00** Film: Eight Below. (2006) Disney canine adventure, starring Paul Walker. **4.20** Film: The Haunted Mansion. (2003) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy.

6.00 **Now That's Funny!** A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring failed celebrations and dinosaur attacks. Last in the series.

7.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Pat and Steve face a moral dilemma in South London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. (R)

8.00 **Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** This week's acts include a horrifying performance using a needle and thread, some unusual card tricks, and a mentalist illusion using a phone book and a sword.

8.55 **5 Weeks Weekend.**

9.00 **Film: The Town.** (2010) Premiere. A thief takes a bank manager hostage while he and his gang make their getaway, only to later learn she lives in the same neighbourhood as him. As FBI agents close in, he tries to befriend her to make sure she cannot identify him, but as he falls in love with her, he considers changing his ways – risking the fury of his unstable partner in crime. Drama, directed by and starring Ben Affleck. With Rebecca Hall and Jeremy Renner. Edited for language.

11.25 **Film: Hancock.** (2008) A PR executive decides to transform the image of a drunken superhero whose careless crime-fighting often does more harm than good. Comedy, starring Will Smith.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Placido Domingo at the BBC **8.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **9.00** Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Mission to Mars: A Horizon Special **11.30** Cosmonauts: How Russia Won the Space Race **1.00** The Bridge: Fifty Years Across the Forth **2.00** The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Fabergé **3.00** Placido Domingo at the BBC **4.00** Close **ITV2**

4.35 FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **5.25** Britain's Got Talent **6.50** Britain's Got More Talent **7.55** Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Pieve Lott: The Hot Desk **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**

1.55 FYI Daily **2.00** Film: Clockwork (1986) **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Cruise Ship **8.30** Royal Stories **9.00** Great Estates of Scotland **10.15** Film: Changeling (2008) **11.15** FYI Daily **11.20** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.05** The Kindness of Strangers **2.25** Wycliffe **3.20** May the Best House Win **5.00** On the Buses **5.30** Judge Judy **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**

3.40 FYI Daily **3.45** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **4.50** Film: The Far Country (1954) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** Film: The Far Country (1954) **6.55** The Wine Show **8.00** Film: Open Range (2003) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Open Range (2003) **10.50** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **11.50** FYI Daily **11.55** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **1.55** Hell on Wheels **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**

2.35 The Goldbergs **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.10** Film: Bride Wars (2009) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: Colombiana (2011) **12.05** The IT Crowd **1.10** The Aliens **2.15** The 100 **Film4**

1.00 Gulliver's Travels (2010) **2.40** ParaNorman (2012) **4.30** Lemonysnicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **6.35** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **11.45** How I Live Now (2013) **1.50** Riff Raff (1990)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

A Teacher's Obsession, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A lacrosse star is kicked off the team until she can improve her grades, leading to a new teacher taking a special interest in helping her – but that interest soon turns disturbing and threatens the girl's entire future. Thriller, starring Molly Hagan. (2015)

TUESDAY

Fatal Performance, Channel 5, 3.20pm

An aspiring actress, working as a waitress, is offered a lucrative contract to impersonate the wife of a businessman during a prestigious reception event in their home. However, she soon learns the devious truth behind the proposal and what seemed like a simple job soon turns into a nightmare scenario. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom and David Patfy. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz and Samantha Ferris. (2014)



Transsiberian, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

THURSDAY

My Gal Sunday, Channel 5, 3.25pm

The daughter of a secret service agent marries a former politician, and together they set up a private detective agency. She faces a personal case when her parents are abducted and the kidnappers demand the release of an imprisoned hitman, and sets out to identify the mysterious criminals. Crime drama, starring Rachel Blanchard. (2013)

FRIDAY

Transsiberian, BBC2, 11.05pm

American couple Roy and Jessie are heading from China to Moscow on the Transsiberian railway when they befriend fellow travellers Carlos and Abby. However, when Roy fails to board the train following a station stop, Jessie begins to suspect her new travelling companions are harbouring a deadly secret. Thriller, starring Woody Harrelson, Emily Mortimer, Kate Mara and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

There's more to the new case than meets the eye

It's been an incredible year for Suranne Jones. The actress, who first rose to fame as the feisty Karen McDonald in Coronation Street, had the nation hooked with her performance as a woman scorned in the BBC drama Doctor Foster, which earned her a National TV Award and a recent Bafta nomination.

And if that wasn't enough, she also gave birth to her first child last month.

However, any worries that new motherhood would keep her off our screens for a while can be put to rest, as this week she returns in a new three-part special of police drama Scott & Bailey.

It's a project that is close to Suranne's heart – not only did the series give her the role of hot-headed Manchester detective Rachel Bailey, the actress also conceived the idea for the series with her former Corrie co-star Sally Lindsay (who is also returning in the role of Rachel's sister Alison).

The characters of Bailey and her more level-headed colleague Janet

Scott (Lesley Sharp) were then developed by award-winning writer Sally Wainwright, who has since gone on to create another acclaimed series about a complicated female cop, Happy Valley.

Over the course of the previous four series, we've seen Scott and Bailey tackle all manner of grisly crimes, while also dealing with their turbulent personal lives, but we're promised that while it may be shorter than usual, this new fifth series is going to test them more than ever.

Executive producer Nicola Shindler says: "We're delighted to be returning to Scott & Bailey with an investigation that will have everlasting consequences for the characters. This series is more ambitious and sinister than ever before and the concept of a three-part story allows us the opportunity to tackle a story of epic scale and ambition."

As regular viewers will remember, the last series ended with the retirement of DCI Gill Murray – and following a 12-month secondment to Vice, Rachel is back in Syndicate 9

and ready to step up to the challenge of becoming acting DI.

Janet is glad to have her mate back, even if she does feel that their friendship has been somewhat neglected – Rachel definitely lost some points when she failed to respond to a text about Janet breaking up with her boyfriend.

The bonding may have to wait though, as the cops look into the gruesome murder of Michael Edgerton. Rachel leads the investigation under the watchful eye of Julie Dodson (Pippa Haywood), but they're not the only ones taking an interest in the case, as a teenage boy watches a clip of the crime on the 'dark net'. It becomes clear that a game is being played – and Syndicate 9 need to find the next victim before the killer does.

Meanwhile, Janet is thrown into turmoil when Taisie (Harriet Waters) is arrested, and for once it looks like Rachel's going to have to use her wisdom and experience to help her friend, rather than the other way around.



Suranne Jones and Lesley Sharp star, Scott & Bailey, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan

BBC2, 6.30pm

New series. The film-maker reveals the extent of Scotland's wildlife, taking well-known faces on an adventure in which they observe some of the UK's most iconic species. In the first programme Gordon is joined by Alastair Campbell for a trip to the Western Isles, including the Isle of Mull, where Gordon grew up, and Tiree, where Alastair spent much of his childhood. The pair go in search of elusive otters and discover an unconventional way of attracting seals, while also getting up close with sea eagles and puffins.

TUESDAY

Drive

ITV, 9pm

While we wait for the re-launched Top Gear and Jeremy Clarkson's rival motor show on Amazon, Vernon Kay is doing a fine job of keeping petrolheads happy with this gas-guzzling challenge. Once more he puts eight celebrity racing rookies, including Professor Green, Johnny Vegas and Angus Deayton, through their paces. This time they have to contend with extreme off-road buggies, and tackle a and a supersized obstacle course. The two at the back of the pack then face a fight for survival in

the Night Race, with the slowest eliminated from the competition

WEDNESDAY

Tonight at the London Palladium

ITV, 8pm

New series. Actor and presenter Bradley Walsh entertains audiences at the Palladium with a variety show featuring stars from music and comedy, as well as a host of speciality acts from around the world. The first edition's line-up of confirmed guests includes Italian classical tenor Andrea Bocelli, singer-songwriter Birdy, and Irish comedian Tommy Tiernan. Plus, there is music from the West End with the cast of Motown the Musical, and a jaw-dropping performance by motorcycle stunt show, The Globe of Death.

Five Star Babies: Inside the Portland Hospital

BBC2, 9pm

An exclusive glimpse inside the UK's only private maternity hospital, where women from Victoria Beckham to the Duchess of York have paid a premium for the ultimate pampered birth. This edition

reveals how Portland Hospital's consultants, midwives, chefs and cleaners serve parents, including high-society 'It Girl' Hui, who admits she is afraid of giving birth naturally. Scottish nurse Pat insists that she is not star struck but 'baby struck' as she looks after the newborns of celebrities and royalty, and the Countess of Bradford reveals the impact of her career as a consultant on her social life.

THURSDAY

Bargain Shop Wars

ITV, 8.30pm

New series. Behind the scenes of Britain's newest bargain chain store, fashion retailer Pep&Co, following staff on both the shop floor and at head office as they take on and try to undercut the big names of the discount fashion world and become the cheapest on the high street. The first episode



Drive, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

18	9	1	25		23		4	24	2	5
	20		8	20	14	13	1		20	2
14	21	24	20	20	7	15	2	22	20	15
	14		9		14	20	17	2		2
	4	20	11	3	14	11	17	19		11
17			6		14				21	9
11	8	23	14	24	17	2	13	13	17	13
4		20			12		16			17
15	2	10		14	11	14	16	6	14	1
9		24		11	4					17
5	20	14	11	1	1		15	14	12	24
1		11		20	26	14	19	17		13
13	14	21	11				9	2	1	13

L	N	O	E	M	X	S	B	P	H	F	R	U
Q	K	I	C	A	Y	T	D	W	V	J	Z	G

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Takes something the wrong way? (4)
- 3. Settled in temporary accommodation (8)
- 9. Driver waiting for a chance to pass? (7)
- 10. Dash back East to do business (5)
- 11. Fruit for chaperons? (12)
- 13. Stones used to make attacks (6)
- 15. Hurry to finish off the bird (6)
- 17. Don't the fair-minded have them? (4,8)
- 20. This tree is hardly a firm favourite! (5)
- 21. At home and being ruthless (7)
- 22. Perfect all over? (8)
- 23. Run back to the right (4)

Down

- 1. One girl I converted to a system of worship (8)
- 2. It could be well done (5)
- 4. Treats as a sister, perhaps? (6)
- 5. It occurs to one later it's the time one should act (12)
- 6. Possibly it's ale up at a high level (7)
- 7. It's not written for one to play (4)
- 8. Enterprises giving less profits? (12)
- 12. Part of a comedian's material roasted by the critic? (8)
- 14. Give some point to something (7)
- 16. A prosperous thing to do (6)
- 18. Greek pigeon? (5)
- 19. A little lower on the farm (4)

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
			8				
9					10		
11							
							12
13		14			15		
					16		
17							18
19							
20				21			
22						23	

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Of that kind (4)
- 3. Amaze (8)
- 9. Non-professional (7)
- 10. Droll (5)
- 11. Agitation (12)
- 13. Niche (6)
- 15. Stick together (6)
- 17. Exaggerated (12)
- 20. Once more (5)
- 21. Clash (7)
- 22. Bony frame-work (8)
- 23. Tidings (4)

Down

- 1. Flag (8)
- 2. Stupid (5)
- 4. Graze (6)
- 5. Now and then (12)
- 6. Plunge into liquid (7)
- 7. Chop (4)
- 8. Strong protest (12)
- 12. Incautious (8)
- 14. Sturgeon roe (7)
- 16. Plaster for coating walls (6)
- 18. Sound (5)
- 19. Go by (4)

Sudoku

		5		3	2			
3			1		4	7		9
		4					2	
	4				1	3		5
	7				3		4	
9	2	5					1	7
	8				7			
		7	3			2		6
2			6	8		9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	1	5	3	7	6	8	4	9
7	8	9	2	1	4	6	5	3
3	4	6	9	5	8	1	7	2
6	3	8	7	4	2	5	9	1
5	9	2	8	3	1	4	6	7
1	7	4	5	6	9	3	2	8
9	6	1	4	8	7	2	3	5
4	5	7	1	2	3	9	8	6
8	2	3	6	9	5	7	1	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Make out; 7 Diver; 9 Tally; 10 Combine; 12 Extravagant; 14 Piece of cake; 18 Driller; 19 Usurp; 21 Round; 22 Come off. Down: 1 Natal; 2 Reflex; 3 Tun; 4 Kit-bag; 5 Leonine; 8 Convict; 11 Trooper; 13 Vitriol; 15 Colony; 16 Kismet; 17 Drift; 20 Hoe. QUICK - Across: 6 Injured; 7 Mary; 9 Demur; 10 Disease; 12 Clandestine; 14 Intimidates; 18 Callous; 19 Speak; 21 Petty; 22 Account. Down: 1 Enter; 2 Mutual; 3 Den; 4 Lament; 5 Present; 8 Liberal; 11 Antique; 13 Enraged; 15 Inlets; 16 Employ; 17 Gaunt; 20 Act.

Quiz

- 1. Into which planet did fragments of comet SL9 crash?
- 2. How is the aurora borealis also known?
- 3. Who was the actress mother of former Tory party chairman Jeremy Hanley?
- 4. The Schick test is used to determine immunity to which disease?
- 5. Which metal forms rust?
- 6. What was the Democratic Republic of the Congo formerly known as?

- 7. What came between the Stone and Iron Ages?
- 8. Which Spanish golfer, three times Open champion, had his career cut short by arthritis?
- 9. Which creature did Edgar Allan Poe have say 'Nevermore'?
- 10. In which city is the hill Arthur's Seat?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Roberto Baggio; 2 Cerebellum; 3 Fox; 4 Zimbabwean; 5 St Lawrence; 6 Jethro; 7 Shelley; 8 Juliana; 9 Pierre Proudhon; 10 Giraffe.

Niner: OVERSIGHT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 9436 gives a metal,
- 7148 gives a second metal,
- 3256 gives a third metal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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1:72 Scale



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Bathing beauty – the Roman Baths with their steaming water and a maze of spa rooms



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Claim to fame – the magnificent Royal Crescent is just one of Bath's many architectural jewels



Elegant opulence – Grove Lodge in Bath

Enjoy a relaxing weekend in Bath with lots of attractions on tap

A GOOD word from Bill Bryson can make or break a tourist attraction. So imagine the sighs of relief among the powers-that-be at Bath's Roman Baths when the travel writer came to the conclusion that he quite liked them.

In fact Bill didn't just like this example of living, flowing, history, he loved it. So much so that he agreed to record his musings as he went to explore.

The result is one of the most absorbing guided tours you are ever likely to find. Yes, it involves grasping an outsized mobile phone to your ear, but it's worth the time and trouble to listen and, contrary to expectations, makes the experience more intimate and real.

In fact there are three commentaries to

By Mark Drew

choose from, the wry observations of Bill to the expert word of TV historian Alice Roberts and finally a charming simplified version for children.

The Roman Baths, with its steaming waters and fascinating maze of ancient spa rooms, is the obvious place to start. It places Bath's origins within the context of its relatively more recent past. And, as Bryson himself observes, the rooftop view it affords of the baths, cast in the shadow of Bath Abbey and enveloped by the sandstone city, is really something to behold.

Bill would, no doubt, also thoroughly approve of Bath's Grove Lodge, a luxury bed and breakfast an easy 20-minute stroll from the centre of the city and my stay for the weekend. Owners Giovanni and Mary Baiano took it over a couple of years ago

and have transformed it into a laid-back but incredibly stylish resting place.

Appropriately, a Roman bust greets you as you arrive. There are three spacious suites, Georgian, Roman and Chinese. Set in an imposing Georgian town house, guests are treated to their own suite and are delivered a five-star breakfast on a silver tray.

Rugby

Grove Lodge sits opposite Bath Rugby Club's training ground. This is a city where the locals live and breathe rugby. This season has been a disappointment by Bath's standards. But it remains a sport uniting a city that, despite the melting pot of nationalities caused by the influx of tourists, has a feeling of community.

Bath's centre is relatively small, which makes it ideally suited to exploring on foot. There are lots of architectural landmarks

in this city, tucked into a valley around 12 miles from Bristol. The magnificent Royal Crescent is Britain's most famous row of terraces. It sits close to Royal Victoria Park, where families picnic in the summer and that boasts one of the country's best playgrounds.

A five-minute stroll takes you The Circus, another example of Georgian splendour where you can wander as Jane Austen once did. And Bath Abbey is just splendid.

Bath's Achilles heel used to be food. In a city with two universities it lacked culinary breadth. That has changed in recent years and today there are endless places to eat and to match all budgets.

And, if you want to spend the day as Bathonians used to, the Thermae Bath Spa allows you to eat a light lunch in your fluffy white robe before a steam room sweat or a swim in its spectacular rooftop pool.

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AN impressive detached home in a highly popular area within a short distance of Sedgley town centre in Gospel End Road, Dudley is for sale through Skitts at £345,000.

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In more detail the lounge has a coal-effect gas fire and the dining room has a serving hatch to the kitchen which has a cooker hood and ceramic wall tiles and ceiling spot lights. For further information call 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net



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A LOVELY family home in a desirable location, this much improved traditional semi in High Haden Crescent, Cradley Heath includes a large through lounge/dining room with a log burner and an extended kitchen.

Pleasantly decorated throughout, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £190,000.

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REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421583

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box: 419673

CARING honest female, WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421617

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status or casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421567

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421455

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. Text only Mailbox: 5419773

ABIGAIL, 33yrs slim sophisticated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasures with a discreet experienced man, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 421339

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421613

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing airy female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421503

ROSIE, genuine well educated, sophisticated lady 29yrs WLTM fun loving chap, any age for chats, lunch, discreet meetings. Box: 4124710 Text only

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421451

JAYNE, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male. 40-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421563

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421413

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421311

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421259

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421241

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ Text only to Mailbox: 5404865

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship. 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421137

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421135

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421115

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421129

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421127

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421111

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind man for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417341

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420791

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life, looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420729

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420357

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417985

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420599

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420269

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman. 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420839

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420757

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420715

Single Men

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IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTM similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421345

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TOM, 58, dark hair, 6ft, seeks older mature female. Size and looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421595

PROFESSIONAL male 62, looking for curvy feminine woman, 50-70, for relationship, loves theatre, films, music, concerts and breaks away. Text only Mailbox: 4435871

YOUNG looking 56 single male, looking for a relationship with petite 40 to 50 year old, likes going out/staying in. Text only Mailbox: 5428643

MIKE, 6ft, medium to big build, WLTM lady for no strings fun, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421359

MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418481

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421385

ROBERT, solvent gentleman, seeks female companion, to attend ice hockey, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421517

MATURE 23 year old. Career minded. Workaholic. Looking for a chat maybe more? Age does not matter. Text only Mailbox: 5423510

NEIL 52, solvent, average build, GSOH seeks a caring romantic female for fun nights in and out, and lots of cuddles & kisses. Text only Mailbox: 5418572

YOUNG at heart male, smart, looks younger than age, likes socialising, looking for companionship & friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5412069

SHROPSHIRE trucker, 54, WLTM female, 40-65, black or white, for friendship, fun and hopefully more x Text only Mailbox: 5411957

WALSALL male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420873

DOMINANT Goddess sought by tall slim compliant white male, 50, who WLTM an elegant, sensual, high heeled lady, any age/race. Text only Mailbox: 4673363

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, caring lady, 55-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421089

SMOKIN' rock geezer, 53, into giggling & camping WLTM rock chick 46-58ish, into similar, to share experiences, GSOH essential! Text only Mailbox: 5414037 ADVENTUROUS 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417235

50ISH male, seeking lady 60-75 for daytime fun, must be discreet. Text only Mailbox: 4624030

GRAHAM, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, OHAC, solvent, smoker, WLTM a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays. South Cheshire, Staffs, ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421103

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 239148

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416817

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417601

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418709

SOUTH Notts guy, 60, medium 5'10 seeks attractive lady for evening & weekend fun. Text only Mailbox: 5339775

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416997

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401875

STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. Text only to mailbox: 5440701

YOUNG at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. Text only to mailbox: 5321154

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4 Pets & Animals

caravans / motorhomes

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5 Business & Farming

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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6

Property

accommodation
to let

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DUDLEY FURNISHED clean modern flat, £86pw, suit mature DSS. 07550 002549.

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7
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EXPERIENCED HAIRDRESSER / BARBER looking for employment. 07807 126764.

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

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AUDI A3 1.9TDI, 2003, blue, good condition, any trial, £1,375. 07714 015881.

BMW 325i SPORT 52 plate, MoT April, sold as seen. Offers around £700. 07814 459851.

CHEVROLET LACETTI SX, Silver, 07.46.600k 7months MoT, recently serviced. Bargain £800ono. 07854 938693 or 07398 981771.

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CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2005, black, 67,000 miles, MoT'd, excellent condition. £1,500 ono. 07428 493924.

CITROEN C3 1360cc, 2003, good condition inside and out, 1 owner, 62,000 miles, 11 months MoT, £950. 07578 757592.

CITROEN PICASSO 2002, 8 months MoT, 128,000 miles, clean and tidy, new wheels, £595 ono. 01902 306855 / 07751 473301.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 2003, 12 months MoT, 69,000 miles, metallic silver, abs, ideal first car, must be seen. £895 ono. 07947 598310

FORD FIESTA 1.4, Diesel, 1996, P reg., MoT, Beige, Low miles. £250 o.n.o. 07908 011959.

FORD FIESTA 2004, TDCI, 73,000 miles, FSH, EM, EW, CL, AC, alloys, grey MoT April, good condition, £695. 07941 360848.

FORD FOCUS Estate, MoT Dec 2016, good runner, £200ono. 07366 295135

FORD KA Silver, 2005, 12 months MoT, 86,000 miles. £650 ono. 07923 132859.

HONDA ACCORD V-tec, Sport, blue, 1.8, 4dr, MoT July 2016, 13k, excellent condition, £750 ono. 07930 374986.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4 wheel drive, 2004, 2.0 diesel, MoT, good condition for year, recent service and cam belt changed, tow bar, parking sensors, £1,450 ono. 07703 548050. 07773 354042.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 AUTOMATIC

2001, 92,000 miles, MoT Aug, full leather, excellent condition. £850. 07873 218280.

MAZDA TRIBUTE 44 V6, spares and repairs, good engine, gear box and body, poor interior. £250 ono. 07816 821960. Worth looking at.

MITSUBISHI PININ 2001, Elegance, 2.0, very good condition, MoT, lots of history. £850 ono. 01662 62756.

NISSAN MICRA, 1996, 61,000 miles, silver, auto, four door, petrol, £325. 01902 741316.

RENAULT Clio EXTREME 2002, 62,000 Miles, Black Good runner, all new tyres. £250 ono. 07834243889

ROVER 75 1.8, 51 reg, MoT, 85,000 miles, A1 condition. £700. 01902 782601.

ROVER 75 CLASSIC V6, auto, W reg, 4 door, 2.0, MoT, blue, 85k, Cd alloy, excellent condition, £295 no offers. 07979 784585.

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 2003, 117,000 miles, grey, abs, air bag, MoT to Sept 2016, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo. Recent timing belt and water pump. £525 ono. 07789 172467.

TOYOTA AVENSIS T3-X 2005, 164,000 miles, olive green, FSH, MoT, diesel, alloys, cambelt at 150k. £999 ono 07405 196046.

TOYOTA LucidaX, 2.2, Preg, diesel, auto, grey, 7 seats, immobiliser, good condition. 102k, £3995. 07791 550578. 01902 339813.

TOYOTA RAV 4 03, 2.0 MoT June 22, 2016, good condition, bargain, £1,200. 01902 656292.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2Si 2005, silver, 11 mths MoT, petrol, alloys, all new tyres, EM EW, good condition. £850 ono. 07931 402895.

VAUXHALL AGILA Auto, 1.2i, 2012, 5-dr, 1 lady owner, cornflower blue, 12 months MoT, FSH, reliable. £3,900 ono. 07954 433634.

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KIA PICANTO 2010, 4dr, 1.1, low tax, £3,250. Call for details. 01384 70821.

MERCEDES A CLASS A150 2006, 1.4, Auto, 5 door, e/w, e/m, stereo, cd, alloys, pas, immaculate. £1,895. 07460 116516.

MERCEDES A160 BlueEfy Classic SE, silver, 61 plate, 4,200 miles, 9 months MoT, immaculate, serviced, £7,500 ono. 07736 252255.

MGB ROADSTER 1971, reluctant sale, very good condition best offer over £2,500. 01384 872084.



MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE

2004, 72,000 Miles, Red, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, Chilli pack, alloys, wind deflector £3,600 ono 07840118706

RENAULT MODUS 1.6 16v Dynamic, silver, 5 door, 55 plate, petrol, automatic, low mileage, £1,650 ono. 07804 470112.

VAUXHALL ANTERA 2.2 SE 4 x 4 Manual, 2011, black, 31k, two owners, three stamps. £8995. 07443 567011.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Manual 5dr hatchback, Exclusive CDTI, 17cc, 2010, diesel, black, 76,000 miles, 6 speed gear box, only £30 tax, air con, cruise control and all other mod cons, good condition. £4,100 ono. 07843 745278.

VOLVO C70 Collection 04, 2.0 Auto, 50,000 miles, FSH, full MoT, metallic black, £2,250. 01902 661513. 07831 277719.

VW PASSAT 1.9 TD SALOON

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9
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general

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New Impreza is unveiled

By James Parker

Subaru has unveiled the all-new 2017 Impreza sedan and hatchback ahead of the New York International Auto Show.

The first model to be underpinned by Subaru's advanced new Global Platform architecture, the new Impreza is engineered to deliver significantly higher levels of driving pleasure, agility, crash protection and ride comfort. The Subaru Global Platform will underpin a variety of upcoming Subaru vehicles, including hybrids and the next generation of Subaru's supremely capable, all-terrain SUV and crossover models.

As before, every Impreza is equipped as standard with Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, which maximises driving agility, stability and traction on all surfaces, and gives the car a key advantage over front-wheel drive competitors.

The all new 2017 Impreza 5-door hatchback is currently under consideration for the European market.

Subaru's new design language puts the brand's signature hexagonal grille and 'hawk-eye' headlights onto a more sculptural body, its athletic stance accentuated by prominent wheel arches and flowing lines. The dramatic new look carries into the cabin, with an 'outward-flow' design that echoes that of the front of the car.

The 2017 Impreza rides on a 2,670 mm wheelbase, up 25 mm compared to the current-generation Impreza, while overall length is up 41 mm and width increases

by 38 mm. The larger dimensions create a roomier cabin, while a 10 mm lower height aids aerodynamics with a lower coefficient of drag.

Although sleeker in appearance than the previous models, the 2017 Impreza preserves excellent all-around visibility.

Subaru's hallmark technologies – four-cylinder horizontally-opposed 'Boxer' engines, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive (AWD) and the EyeSight driver safety assist system – join the new Subaru Global Platform in providing the core foundations of next-generation of Subaru vehicles. Set to form the basis of all future Subaru models, the highly-adaptable platform is suitable for a range of different body styles and powertrains, including Subaru's all-terrain crossover and SUV models.

The Impreza's new platform incorporates several types of high-strength steel to significantly enhance straight-line stability, agility and ride comfort, while suppressing noise, vibration and harshness to a degree not seen in the compact class. Specifically, the new platform increases rigidity of the unitised body structure by over 70 percent compared to the current Impreza model.

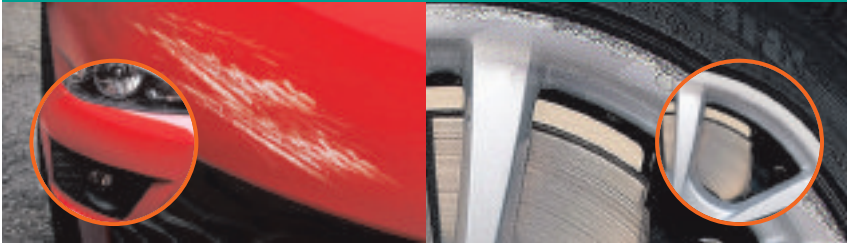
A lower centre of gravity and revised suspension systems contribute to the biggest-ever leap forward in Subaru's dynamic capabilities.

The double-wishbone independent rear suspension mounts its rear stabiliser bar directly to the body, reducing body roll by 50 percent.

Greater hazard-avoidance capability is another benefit of the Subaru Global Platform. In addition, resolute straight-line stability makes the 2017 Impreza more relaxing to drive and is also an important constituent of the autonomous driving.



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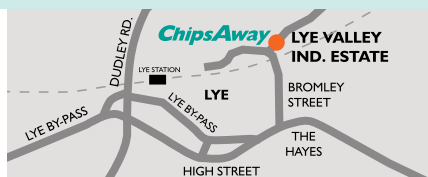
✓ Paintwork scratches

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Nissan is celebrating 20 years of the 'curry hook'



Nissan's advanced driver assistance systems are available on many of its models, including the award-winning Qashqai crossover.

Development of these hi-tech solutions is constantly evolving to improve the ownership experience, but Nissan engineers never forget that a simple approach can be just as effective. This month marks 20 years since the debut of one of its most iconic features – the much-loved 'curry hook'.

The dashboard hook first appeared on the Almera compact family hatchback in March 1996, as a way of keeping hand bags or shopping bags upright.

It was quickly dubbed the 'curry hook' by media who recognised it was the perfect way to stop takeaway food from spilling into the car's foot well.

Today, it remains a feature of the brand's crossovers such as the Qashqai and X-Trail. All that's changed is the location of the hook; it has moved from the dashboard to the boot.

It's just one of many simple solutions which Nissan has incorporated into its cars to make life easier for the driver.

Another is the 'Karakuri' boot board – also known as the Flexi-Board – which is available on the Qashqai, Juke and Note. It allows owners to divide the cargo space according to their needs, and can be arranged in various configurations to support and protect items in transit.

When not in use, it cleverly stores out of the way in the boot floor.

Nissan's engineers have put just as much thought into the latest Navara pickup.

For example, it features a 12-volt power socket in the dashboard's upper storage tray – ideal for customers who have their own portable sat-nav device to stick to the windscreen. It means

no potentially hazardous trail of wires across the fascia, keeping the driving environment tidy and unobstructed. Cleverly, for customers who choose a Navara with an integrated sat-nav, the socket isn't there.

Such smart thinking isn't a new element of the Nissan 'customer-first' philosophy.

In September 1986, when the first Nissan Bluebird rolled off the new production line in Sunderland, UK, it had two analogue trip meters built into the instrument cluster behind the steering wheel.

Why? So business users could easily separate and log their professional and private mileage.

A unique feature at the time, it is now standard on the digital read-outs of almost every volume car brand.

Many innovations such as these began life in the minds of the engineering experts at Nissan's European Technical Centre in Cranfield, UK.

Verso putting safety first

Toyota's flexible, family-friendly Verso MPV has been given a substantial safety upgrade with a package of Toyota Safety Sense active safety and driver assistance features being added to the standard specification of every model.

It's part of a refresh for 2016 that includes a revised grade structure, new alloy wheel designs and a clutch of detail changes in the cabin. Prices start at £18,120.

Verso's Toyota Safety Sense benefits include a pre-collision system that recognises an imminent impact with a vehicle ahead, triggering a warning to the driver and priming the brakes for extra stopping power the moment the brake pedal is pressed. If the driver fails to respond, autonomous emergency braking is activated, automatically

slowing the vehicle to reduce the force of any impact.

Verso further gains automatic high beam, which maintains excellent forward visibility when driving at night. It detects both the headlights of oncoming vehicles, and the tail lights of vehicles ahead, automatically switching between high and low beams to avoid dazzling other drivers.

The third Toyota Safety Sense element for Verso is lane departure alert. This monitors lane markings on the road and helps prevent accidents and head-on collisions caused by a vehicle drifting out of its lane. If the vehicle starts to deviate from its lane without the turn indicators being used, the system alerts the driver with visual and audible warnings.

These features are in addition to Verso's proven active and passive safety provisions, from its strong body construction, designed to absorb and channel impact forces away from the cabin, to the seven airbags, ABS, emergency brakeforce distribution, brake assist, traction control and vehicle stability control that all come as standard.

Verso is available in a new Design trim, alongside the established Active, Icon and Excel specifications.

Available with the 1.8-litre Valvematic petrol engine with automatic transmission and the 1.6-litre D-4D diesel, it comes with the Toyota Touch 2 with Go multimedia system with satellite navigation and reversing camera, rear privacy glass and a (fixed) panoramic roof. These are in addition to the standard features of Icon grade, including DAB tuner, dusk-sensing headlights, cruise control, automatic air conditioning, six-speaker audio and power windows front and rear.

At the top of the range, Excel models gain the panoramic roof, rain-sensing wipers, au-



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Family-friendly Verso MPV has been given a substantial safety upgrade with a package of Toyota Safety Sense active safety and driver assistance features

to-dimming rear-view mirror, high-intensity discharge headlights and combination leather and cloth upholstery.

Icon, Design and Excel versions of Verso can be specified with an optional, high-value family pack that provides two rear seatback screens with integrated DVD players and leather seat upholstery (first and second row seats) for £1,995. Other entertainment system combinations are available as stand-alone options, including permutations of master and slave DVD screens and single or double iPad docks.

New alloy wheel designs feature on the 2016 Verso – 16-inch for Icon, 17-inch for Design and 17-inch with a double-spoke

arrangement for Excel, with an anthracite dark grey finish. The colour choices include a new platinum bronze shade.

In the cabin there is a new leather-trimmed steering wheel with integrated switches for hands-free phone use and other functions. A new gear shift design and a new-look cloth upholstery for Icon and Design models. To free up more boot space, the tyre repair kit (when specified) has been relocated to the underfloor storage compartment behind the driver's seat.

The Toyota Touch 2 system adopts a larger, seven-inch display and, where sat nav is specified, an improved interface for easier, more intuitive operation.

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Richard Davies is targeting a return to the top of the world rankings



Richard Davies lines up the target



Hours spent practising is paying off for Richard Davies



Richard has his eye on the Rio Paralympic games



A few moments to relax and pose for a picture

With a double target in sight Davies is fired up

STOURBRIDGE shooter Richard Davies is fully focused on regaining world No.1 status and securing a place in the Great Britain team for the Rio Paralympic games.

The 44-year-old is having a fine year so far and became the British disabled shooting champion, after scoring a record 632.6 at the British Airgun Championships in Surrey. At the end of January, he won bronze at the IPC Shooting World Cup in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, where more than 300 disabled shooters from 30 different countries took part.

Impress

Davies, who made his Paralympic debut at London 2012, is now looking impress Team GB selectors and once again make it to the top of the world rankings.

"I have just regained my British title and I'm off to Poland for a World Championship competition in April, and hopefully I can move up the rankings after that," he said.

"Then I have got another tournament in Hanover, Germany, which is the final one before the team selection for Rio."

Davies was a wheelchair rugby player for 14 years but gave up the sport after failing to make the squad for the Beijing Paralympics in 2008.

He then dedicated himself to training to become a shooter, and made his international bow at the IPC Shooting World Cup in Antalya, Turkey one year later. In 2011, he reached No.1 in the world rank-

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"I train for 52 hours every week, working a lot on my concentration and almost go into a meditative state"

ings and then fulfilled his dream of competing in the Paralympics in 2012.

He placed 16th in the R4 10-metre air rifle standing mixed SH2 event and admitted the pressure of being in front of a huge home crowd got to him.

"London was unbelievable, our normal spectator crowds are of around 200 people but in London there was about 2,500 people and I really felt the home pressure," he said.

"I really felt it that day, it affected my psyche. The home pressure got to me, and I didn't perform as well as I should have."

"I have never felt anything like it, but I have been around the world for a few years since and I feel like I'm ready for Rio. The nerves have been put to one side."

At the IPC Shooting World Cup back in January, Richard had to maintain total concentration in temperatures of more than 30 degrees and said shooting almost requires going into a 'meditative state'. Hav-

ing good stability and keeping your heart rate calm is paramount in shooting," he said. "I train for 52 hours every week, working a lot on my concentration and almost go into a meditative state."

The SH2 classification is for competitors who are not able to support the weight of the firearm with their arms and therefore require a spring mounted stand to shoot.

The target consists of 10 concentric scoring rings, with the central ring worth 10 points and the outside ring worth one.

Decimal

In the 10m air rifle event, the whole target is 4.5 centimetres in diameter and the central ring is just half a millimetre across.

Each competitor takes 60 shots at the target in a set time period, and then the eight top scoring athletes go through to a 10-shot final.

The shots in the final are scored to one decimal place, with a top score of 10.9, and are added on to the qualification score to determine the winner.

Davies is currently fourth in the IPC official world rankings for the R4 10-metre air rifle standing mixed SH2 event.

With the competition for places fierce, Davies has Rio in his sights and does not have a definite plan in place for the next few years to come.

"I just need to concentrate everything on Rio at the moment, and then take it from there," he added.

"I could look at coaching in the future, or look at going to Tokyo but I am 100 per cent committed to Rio at this point."

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Purchase is eyeing place in top three

CRADLEY'S comeback man James Purchase is setting himself a target of a top three place in the Heathens team.

Purchase, who hadn't ridden for a decade before returning to the sport with the National League side, won a race in the opening night win over Belle Vue.

Now he wants to continue the winning form when the Motor Market side face Rye House at Wolverhampton on Monday.

Purchase said: "The main thing for me is I just want to have fun, because if I'm doing that then I'll probably be riding pretty well.

"If I'm enjoying myself then I'd like to think I can, realistically, get my average up to around seven or eight points and be pushing the big guns in the third heat-leader role.

"I'm not going to put too much pressure on myself, I just want to enjoy racing again and hopefully the points will come. I was pleased to get that first meeting out of the way against Belle Vue, and it was nice to help the team start with a win.

"It was a decent start for me, I was happy to get that first race win and I've definitely got something to build on.

"I'll be looking to try and do a bit better against Rye House in the next meeting."

Despite being away from the sport for nearly a decade, Purchase hopes his past experience can prove helpful to the younger members of the Heathens side.

He said: "Hopefully I can pass some of my experience on to the younger riders.

"I've been riding in the National League as a youngster, I know how hard it can be and so I'd like to think I can pass some of the stuff I learnt years ago on to those guys.

"At the same time, I'm sure they'll be able to help me as well.

Win at neighbours keeps Pics in with promotion chance

Halesowen Town 1 Rushall Olympic 3 RUSHALL kept their lingering play-off hopes alive with a convincing victory over near-neighbours Halesowen.

The hosts failed to extend their recent good form and Yeltz goalkeeper Dan Platt was forced into a 10th minute save from Andre Brown. It was no surprise when Rushall's Alex Reid burst down the left wing and crossed for man-of-the-match Mitchell Tolley to steer home after 14 minutes.

The Pics doubled their lead when Reid swept home in the 34th.

Kris Taylor met Tolley's pass and cut in to stroke past Platt from 10 yards to make it 3-0 to Rushall in the 89th minute. Sweeney claimed Halesowen's consolation goal in injury time.

Two successive wins have propelled Stourbridge back into the play-off hunt.

A 3-2 win at Ashton on Saturday, with goals from George Bowerman, Dan Scarr and Karl Hawley, was followed by a 2-0 triumph at home to Stamford on Monday.

Goals came from Chris Lait and Justin Richards.

Sublime half after error-strewn first



James Rodley touches down his second try

Stourbridge 35 Chester 17

HAVING prevailed in the reverse fixture played in driving rain in November, Stour looked to bounce back from a hammering at the hands of Tynedale.

What resulted was a curate's egg of a performance, a sublime five-try second half preceded by an error-strewn first 40 minutes.

Within five minutes, Craig Ross had scored a converted try and before the break Callum Bennett slipped through for a second try.

After the interval, flanker Joe Carpenter's pass found Joe Bridger whose footwork saw him ghost

Rugby

through the defences to score under the posts. A forced pass was picked off by Josh Tringham who hared 65m downfield to score, with James Rodley then crashing over on 63 minutes and Ash Elvers added to the tally, putting Stourbridge 28-12 up.

Rodley crashed over again before Will Bown got a try back. Stour's next fixture is away at Otley on Saturday.

The depleted Lions lost 29-3 at home to second-placed Camp Hill, with George Tildesley bagging a consolation penalty.

HALES LET THE OPPOSITION IN

Old Halesonians 18 Longton 22

HALES were looking to get back to winning ways but no one told the Staffordshire visitors.

In typical fashion Hales came out on fire, converting a penalty after three minutes through Oli Rayner.

However, they also typically allowed the opposition back into the game.

Following the opening score, a lapse in the Hales defence saw Longton sneak over for a try. The home side fought back and after 16 minutes Max Macfarlane drove over for a try.

The continued pressure saw Longton lose a player for 10 minutes with a yellow card. After another penalty by Rayner, Hales led 11-7. The home side seemed destined to increase the lead and they duly did, to 18-7 as winger Joe Oxford found himself in space to score, converted by Rayner.

The second half saw a change in fortunes with Longton taking the initiative with two tries in quick succession with still 30 minutes to go. One driving maul saw Owen Jones diving for what seemed like a definite try to take the lead, only to be disallowed by the referee declaring the ball held up. Despite continued home pressure, Longton converted a 73rd minute penalty to win the game.

Hales look to make a mends when they travel to Newport (Salop) on Saturday for the penultimate league of the season, kick off 3pm.

Old Halesonians 2nds 8 Hinckley 2nds 29

OLD Hales faced a tough match against top of the table Hinckley. The start was positive. However it was Hinckley who took the lead with a converted try.

When Hinckley were caught offside, the home side were awarded a penalty and Jake Shellis landed the kick. Hales then took the lead when Kieron Haynes charged down a clearance and powered over.

Hinckley started the second half with greater determination and scored a converted try to re-establish a lead that was soon stretched to 24-8. They sealed a 29-8 victory when their No.5 was tackled just short of the try line and the ball was recycled quickly for a try to be scored.

Old Halesonians 4ths beat Stourbridge a Stourbridge 3rd and 4th XV by 64-14.

DK spring the Leek defence



DK's Stefan Shillingford is grounded in the home win over Leek

Leek 25 DK 38

THE scenario that faced both clubs was that this was of an end of season game with nothing riding on it.

DK had been disrupted at the last minute with the loss of Ollie Shakespeare to illness, with a squad already showing some changes due to unavailabilities.

Meanwhile, Leek were fielding a team with an eye to the future.

DK kicked off with the advantage afforded by the slope and Ryan Wicketts gave them their first try, converted by Duncan Tompkins. The lead did not last long as Leek were back level at

7-7. DK's next score came from Nic Adams, followed by a superb conversion from the touchline by Tompkins, who then added a penalty to increase the advantage. When Adams crashed over for his second try, Tompkins then hit the upright with his conversion attempt.

In the opening minutes of the second half Leek scored a converted try and a penalty. But DK hit back with a penalty from Tompkins. Then Leek kept the pressure on with a penalty of their own.

Stef Shillingford pounced over for a try, converted by Tompkins. Leek scored another try, but the contest was ended with a Tomkins penalty.

Grounds for recovery as start delayed

HALESOWEN'S pre-season friendlies have been delayed by a week to give the ground more time to recover from the wet weather.

It means this weekend's games with Droitwich and Stourport are off and the first action will be on Saturday week, April 16, with T20 games against Himley.

The visitors that day will be captained by former Worcestershire and Leicestershire star Ben Smith and play starts at 12.30 and 3pm.

Meanwhile club officials have paid tribute to everyone who turned out for the ECB Cricket Force weekend.

Volunteers helped with painting and repairing and building various parts of the club grounds with Earls High School again hosting games in 2016.

Chairman Richard Evans said: "A really huge thank you from the club to everyone who gave their time over the weekend.

"Massive strides were made both at Seth Somers Park and the Earls to get the grounds ready for the new season.

"We can now look forward to the season ahead with confidence that our off-field preparations are all in place."

The club has revealed that former Warwickshire and Worcestershire ace David Banks has left to focus on his roles with the Worcestershire youngsters and Smethwick.

Evans said: "We have been fortunate to have the calibre of Banksy around these last three years to work mainly with our first team and his influence will be missed.

"He has been a big help to all of our players with his county cricket knowledge as well as being an ECB Level 3 coach.

"We wish him well and look forward to seeing him back at the club where he will be made most welcome."

Jack's the lad with prominent placing

HALESOWEN Cycling Club were prominent in the weekend's racing with Jack Stanton-Warren the pick, finishing 11th overall in a Category 1 field in Abergavenny after starting down the field in a handicap structure.

He then finished fourth in a sprint to the line in the annual Bill Jinks race in Corley, Warwickshire. Jo Hobbs finished fast in the chasing pack while Oliver Dighton retired with a puncture.

Jamieson Blain finished fourth in the second round of the u-16 West Midlands Mountain Bike Series. Simon Wylie made it onto the second step of the podium in the u-14s.

★★★

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